Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 279 | SATURDAY NOVEMBER 21, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to vote in the Nov. 23 runoff election?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6

As of November 20, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

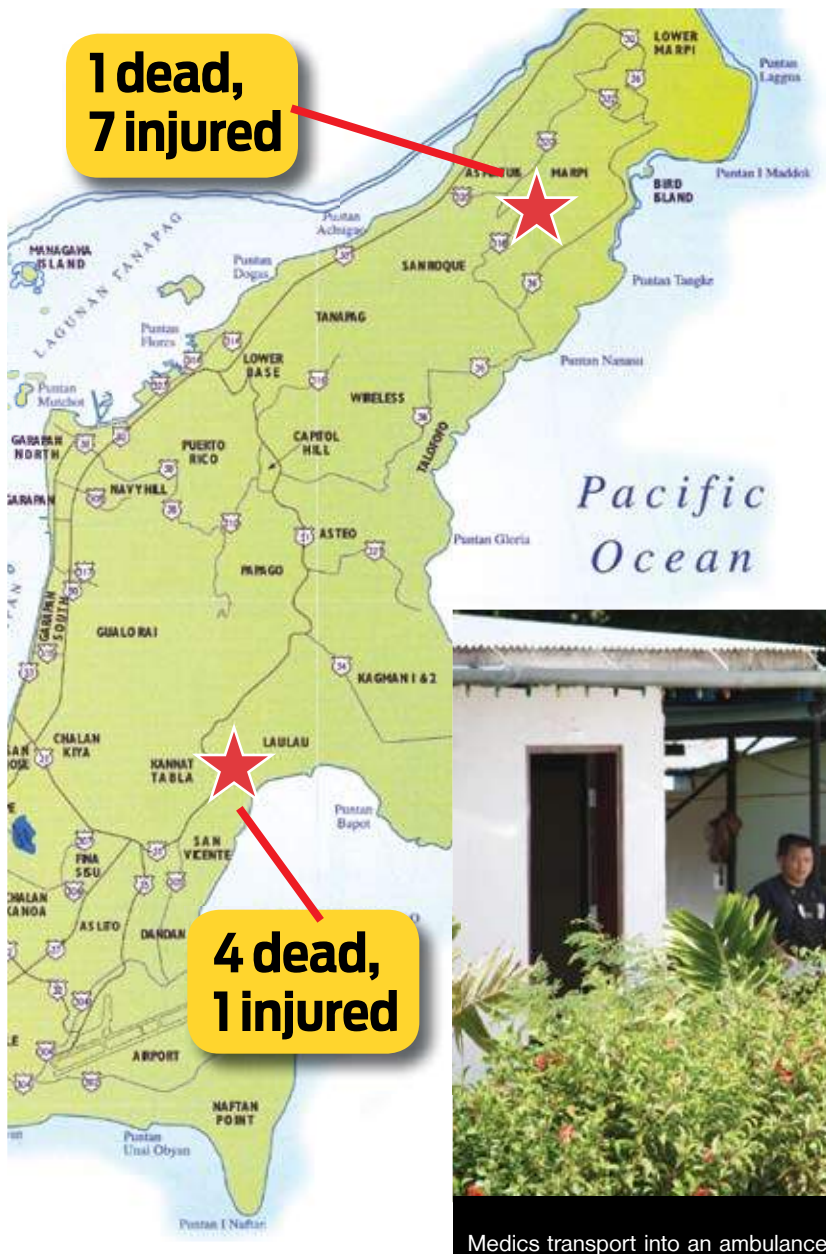
INSIDE

Hero's Welcome
Manila's notorious traffic came to a halt and thousands lined streets and bridges Friday to cheer their hero Manny Pacquiao.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Victoria's Secret
Heidi Klum and her post-baby body led the parade at the annual Victoria's Secret fashion show.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20



5 dead, 8 hurt in SHOOTING RAMPAGE

Man shoots dead 4 persons, opens fire on tourists, kills self

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Five persons are dead and eight others were injured in a shooting rampage yesterday that sowed panic among residents and caused the lockdown of schools on Saipan.

See RAMPAGE on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Medics transport into an ambulance one of the four persons who were killed by an Asian man at a shooting range in Kannat Tabla yesterday.

DPH assures vigilance in care of victims

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez assured the community yesterday that the Commonwealth Health Center was able to provide the necessary treatment for the victims in yesterday's shooting rampage.

Villagomez, who described the incident as a "tragic day" for the CNMI, said the department called in additional doctors and nurses to attend to the emergency.

Villagomez, along with the hospital's medical director, Dr. Richard Brostrom, assured that doctors will keep watch on the condition of the shooting victims.

"The hospital treated the victims and we're closely monitoring the two other

See DPH on Page 4

'CNMI still safe place for residents, tourists'

Gov't: Shooting is isolated incident

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite yesterday's shootings that left five people dead, including the suspect who turned the gun on himself after wounding eight other children and adults, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said the CNMI remains a safe place for residents and tourists.

"It's the worst incident of its kind in the CNMI, a U.S. territory that's three days away from holding its first ever gubernatorial runoff election and eight days away from being placed under U.S. federal immigration control.

See CNMI on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, looks on as Police Officer II Jason Tarkong briefs local and foreign media about the shootings yesterday in Kannat Tabla and Marpi that left five people dead, including the suspect who turned the gun on himself, and wounded eight others, mostly Korean tourists. Officials said the CNMI remains a safe place despite the "isolated" shootings, the worst tragedy of its kind in the history of this U.S. territory.

Coast Guard, Navy rescue five divers off Saipan coast. **PAGE 2**
'It's a shame the House rejected austerity bill' **PAGE 3**

Local

Coast Guard, Navy rescue five divers off Saipan coast

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam's Command Center and a helicopter crew from U.S. Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two Five worked together to rescue five divers off of the southern tip of Saipan yesterday.

Sector Guam's Command Center was notified of the missing divers at approximately 12:45pm by Saipan's Emergency Management Office and approximately two hours later, all of the divers had been hoisted aboard an MH-60 S helicopter from HSC-25 and were on their way to shore.

All appeared in good condition and none required medical attention.

Coast Guard Sector Guam is investigating the cause of this incident.

Coast Guard Sector Guam reminds the public of the importance of early notification on any potential search and rescue incident or overdue case. The search and rescue phone number for Coast Guard Sector Guam is (671) 564-USCG. ***(USCG)***

High Court affirms dismissal of case vs contractor

The CNMI Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision issued yesterday, affirmed the Superior Court's dismissal of Century Insurance Co.'s lawsuit against Pedro R. Guerrero.

In 1993 Guerrero Brothers Inc. entered into a contract with the Public School System to build Tinian High School. Guerrero Brothers turned to Century Insurance to secure the construction bonds necessary for it to start the project. The construction bonds provided that if Guerrero Brothers failed to complete the project, Century Insurance would step in and pay another company to complete the job. Additionally, Century Insurance and Pedro Guerrero entered into an "Agreement to Lease" where Pedro Guerrero agreed that if Guerrero Brothers failed to complete the project he would lease certain land to Century Insurance for 55 years.

In 1998 PSS terminated Guerrero Brother's contract, and Century Insurance hired another construction company to finish the project.

In 2006, Century Insurance filed suit in the Superior Court seeking to enforce the "Agreement to Lease." Pedro Guerrero, through his attorney, responded to the lawsuit by alleging that Century Insurance had waited too long to enforce the agreement, and as a result, the six-year statute of limitations had passed.

Statutes of limitations are enacted by the Legislature and determine how long a party has to file a lawsuit. The statutes are strictly applied meaning that if a party does not file his or her lawsuit within the specified time period they completely lose the right to have their case heard by the court.

Both parties stipulated that Century Insurance was entitled to enforce the agreement starting in 1998. Pedro Guerrero asserted that the Superior Court correctly applied the general catch-all six-year statute of limitations. Century Insurance argued that the 20 statute of limitations applicable to actions for the recovery of land or an interest therein governed their lawsuit.

The Supreme Court held that an action to enforce an agreement to lease does not constitute an action seeking the recovery of land or an interest therein. The high court found that the 20-year statute of limitations was never applied to actions seeking to enforce an agreement to lease. Since the suit was filed in 2006, eight years after Century Insurance's right to file the suit arose, the Supreme Court affirmed the Superior Court's order dismissing the action. The full opinion is *Century Insurance Company, Limited v. Pedro R. Guerrero, et-al.*, 2009 MP 16 and can be found at http://www.justice.gov.mp/. ***(PR)***

Live the Fiesta Way!
Rib Eye Nights
For $19.75 per person,
eat all you can roasted rib eye,
tossed salad and dessert.
Includes one glass red or white house wine.
Every Friday and Saturday.
Promotion Ends December 20, 2009.
World cafe Terrace
For reservation and inquiries call 233-6414
or 234-7171 ext. 1547/1548
VIP card welcome.
FIESTA Resort & SPA SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Celebrate Thanksgiving at
AOI RESTAURANT
Thanksgiving Brunch
November 26, 2009 11AM - 2PM $22.00
Turkey, Roast Pig, Ham & Prime Rib Carving Stations with all the traditional stuffings and live teppanyaki Cooking Station & MORE ....
WITH BOTTOMLESS CHAMPAGNE, DRAFT BEER, JUICES & ICED TEA
Thanksgiving Dinner
November 26, 2009 6PM - 9PM $20.00
Roast Turkey and Ham with all the traditional stuffings live teppanyaki Cooking Station & MORE...
WITH BOTTOMLESS DRAFT BEER & ICED TEA
50% OFF Child
Special local discount 20% OFF
Senior Citizen discount 30% OFF
FREE play @ whimsy arcade,swimming pool pass
For reservations please call 234-6601 ext. 301 or 235-6616
In cooperation with
Miller Lite
MAGAS
SAIPANCELL Communications is now docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
Weekend Party
CLUB @ X
Fridays & Saturdays
hot DJ's, hot MUSIC,
hot PEOPLE
the PRIDE of the 670
BIG KEN
DJ "Big Ken" Camacho
on the wheels of steel
Hosted by: DJ LJ
Drink Specials
ALL NIGHT LONG
KAMIKAZE SHOT $1 ONLY
FREE ENTRANCE!
FREE CHASERS!
WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!
Salon
TRENCH TECH
COMING TO SAIPAN!!!
TENDERLOIN DISTRICT
FIRST GLANCE NOVEMBER 27, 2009
DOOR OPENS 9pm
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT STARTS 9:30pm
Another exciting offer from the Grand!
SGH Saipan Grand Hotel
A TanHoldings Company

NMC NURSING CLUB

Northern Marianas College students and staff take time in between classes and work to get blood sugar and blood pressure checks at a free health screening facilitated by students of the NMC Nursing Club. The free screening is part the of the Club's efforts to promote health awareness throughout the campus and the CNMI community.

NMC

'It's a shame the House rejected austerity bill on election season'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate Ways and Means Committee chair Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan (D-Saipan) said Thursday it is "irresponsible" for the House of Representatives to "throw away" the Senate-amended budget bill without giving solution to the projected deficit in Fiscal Year 2010.

On a 17-0 vote, the House rejected on Monday the Senate-amended bill that includes a 16-hour cut in government work hours per pay period to help reduce the projected deficit of $15.3 million in FY 2010.

"It shows nobody wants to take the responsibility to address the problem of the government," Pangelinan said, adding that the House leadership has politicized the budget process because of the election.

A gubernatorial runoff election will be held on Monday. House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who is running for lieutenant governor, did not answer or return calls for comment. He had said that there have been "a lot of differences in the House and Senate versions of the budget bill" that need to be evaluated.

"What a shame," Pangelinan said during Thursday's Senate session.

Later, Pangelinan said "nobody wants to make the tough decisions" to help reduce the projected deficit in FY 2010 because of the election.

The Senate-amended budget bill would have reduced government work week to four days.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) briefly said Thursday the Senate-amended bill has "flaws" according to legal review, and is "not cohesive."

The Senate returned House Bill 16-275, HD2, SS1, SD1 to the House, which rejected it on Monday.

In Thursday's session, Pangelinan also raised concern about the House's failure to state a reason for rejecting Senate amendments to the House budget bill.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) said he will talk to the House speaker on the reason for rejecting the bill.

Many House members, during Monday's session, said they voted "no" on the bill because of the austerity measures included by the Senate.

Reyes hopes the joint conference committee members will be able to work out a compromise budget bill before the end of the year.

"My hope is that the Legislature will act responsibly," he said.

The Senate, however, did not change the House's identified budgetary resources of $162.820 million.

The House bill pegs the appropriations at $150,288,886, while the Senate amended it to $154,418,886.

The Senate president named Sen. Paul Manglona (R-Rota) to chair the three-member conference committee, along with members Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) and Sen. Joseph Mendiola (Cov-Tinian). Pangelinan, who did not seek re-election, declined to chair the conference committee.

In the House, Palacios named Yumul as chair of the conference committee, along with members Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Rep. Victor Hocog (Cov-Rota), and Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian).

If austerity measures are not implemented, the budget shortfall for FY 2010 will be $15,346,557, the Senate said.

Without the austerity Fridays, however, the government can cut all costs by about 10 percent, take $15 million from the operational costs, or order a reduction in force, it added.

The House passed the budget bill weeks after the start of FY 2010, giving the Senate a few weeks to review it and pass it; thus the government operates under continuing resolution until the House and Senate work on a compromise budget bill.

ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the public
that the Pool Bash event
on Saturday
November 21, 2009
at Palms Resort Saipan
is cancelled.

Sorry for the inconvenience.

The Palms
on PauPau Beach ™

Introducing the Newest, Most Affordable BlackBerry® smartphone.

Dedicated Media Buttons
Control music and multi-media at the push of a button.

BlackBerry® Curve™ 8520 smartphone
$270.00*

- Wireless Email
- Browser
- 2MP Camera
- Video Camera Capabilities
- Multimedia Player
- Wi-Fi
- Bluetooth
- Organizer
- 256MB Flash Memory

NEW Trackpad Navigation
The newest way to navigate through icons and menus.

Lightweight & Compact
A full QWERTY keyboard that fits in the palm of your hands.

BlackBerry Curve™

BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world.
*Some conditions apply. INCLUDES FREE ONE (1) Month ACCESS & DATA. New activation on 12 month agreement and BlackBerry ® data required. Offer valid on October 26, 2009 to November 21, 2009 or while supplies last.

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC

483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT EIS/OEIS AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Department of the Navy (DoN) and the Joint Guam Program Office (JGPO) announces the availability of the Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) military relocation Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS). The Draft EIS/OEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts associated with relocating Marines from Okinawa, Japan to Guam, constructing visiting Aircraft Carrier berthing facilities, and establishing a U.S. Army Air and Missile Defense Task Force on Guam. The Draft EIS also examines off base mission critical, mission support, and community support infrastructure improvements needed to ensure that Joint Region Marianas can provide expanded direct support of the Department of Defense's strategic mission and operational readiness in the Western Pacific Region.

The Draft EIS/OEIS is available for review at www.guambuildupeis.us and at the following libraries: University of Guam Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Library, Government Documents Tan Siu Lin Building, UOG Station, Mangilao, GU 96923; Nieves M. Flores Memorial Library, 254 Martyr Street, Hagåtña, GU 96910; Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, P.O. Box 501092, Saipan, MP 96950; Northern Marianas College Olympio T. Borja Memorial Library, P.O. Box 501250, Saipan, MP 96950; and the Tinian Public Library, P.O. Box 520704, Tinian, MP 96952. In addition, a reading room with copies of the Draft EIS/OEIS for the public to review has been established at Agana Shopping Center. This facility will be open during normal shopping center hours starting from November 21, 2009 to February 17, 2010 so that members of the public can access and review the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The DoN will host public hearings on the islands of Guam, Tinian, and Saipan to receive verbal and written comments on the Draft EIS/OEIS.

The public is encouraged to attend the public hearings, which will be held at the following dates, times, and locations:

Thursday January 7, 2010- Southern High School, Santa Rita, Guam, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm (Open House)
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm (Formal Hearing)

Saturday January 9, 2010- Field House, University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
(Open House) 3:00 pm-5:00 pm (Formal Hearing)

Monday January 11, 2010- Yigo Gymnasium, Yigo, Guam, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm (Open House)
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm (Formal Hearing)

Tuesday January 12, 2010- Okkodo High School, Dededo, Guam, 5:00 pm-7:00 pm (Open House)
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm (Formal Hearing)

Thursday January 14, 2010- Tinian Elementary School, San Jose, Tinian 5:00 pm-7:00 pm (Open House)
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm (Formal Hearing)

Friday January 15, 2010- Multi Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan 5:00 pm-7:00 pm (Open House)
7:00 pm- 9:00 pm (Formal Hearing)

An open house will take place during the first two hours of each hearing, followed by a two-hour formal public hearing. Informational posters will be displayed and subject matter experts will be available during the open house to discuss the findings of the Draft EIS/OEIS and to answer questions from the public.

Oral and/or written comments may be submitted at the public hearings. Translators will be available. Interested agencies, individuals, and groups unable to attend the public hearings are encouraged to provide written comments postmarked no later than February 17, 2010.

Mail comments to: **JGPO c/o NAVFAC Pacific**
258 Makalapa Drive, Suite 100
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3134
Attention: GPMO

A web-based comment form can also be submitted at www.guambuildupeis.us.

Federal agencies, government of Guam agencies, government of CNMI agencies, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to provide oral and/or written comments for consideration in the Final EIS/OEIS. DoN and JGPO will consider all comments received as they develop the Final EIS/OEIS.

Another blow for NMI tourism industry

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority admitted yesterday that the tragic incident that resulted in five deaths and multiple injuries to mostly tourists will have an impact on the CNMI tourism industry.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the agency is currently making sure that victims of the "unfortunate" incident and their families are taken cared of both medically and emotionally.

Tenorio said they are also working closely with the Korean Association of Saipan and Korean tour guides and travel agencies to help families in this difficult situation.

The hospital recorded eight injuries, seven of whom are Koreans who were sightseeing in the Marpi area. Five other persons died in the same incident.

MVA's offshore offices, Tenorio said, are also monitoring the media outlets in Korea and Japan where official communications from the Office of the Governor are being shared.

"This is an unfortunate situation. It's not new to some communities in the world…but very new to the CNMI. We're very concerned of the negative impact this incident will have on our tourism industry," he said.

MVA promotes the CNMI as the best destination for travelers for all markets—China, Korea, Japan, Russia, and other markets.

Tenorio described yesterday's incident as an "isolated case" and assured marketing partners that the CNMI remains safe for tourists.

By directly providing communications and statements about the incident, the MVA chief said, this will prevent the distortion of information because "real facts" will be shared.

Although Japan remains the key market of the CNMI, Korea also bring in significant volume of tourists to the island. Most tourists from Korea are flown to Saipan by Asiana Airlines.

CNMI

From Page 1

"The Commonwealth has never experienced a tragic situation like this and we are saddened by the appalling action of a single individual that has caused so much harm to our peaceful island community," Fitial said in a statement last night.

The CNMI, a tourist destination popular among Japanese and Koreans, is a relatively peaceful community of some 50,000 local residents and foreign workers.

"I want our residents and visitors to know that our Commonwealth, despite this unfortunate incident, is still a safe place. I also want to assure our friends and families abroad that we are assessing the situation and will take every precaution and action to prevent this situation from happening again," said Fitial.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos held a news briefing at the Department of Public Safety at past 4pm.

"This is a very unfortunate situation, a very isolated case. I don't think that throughout the CNMI, something like this has happened. We feel bad about this. Our prayers go out to the families of the victims," he said.

Fitial was at the Commonwealth Health Center at about the same time to personally extend his condolences and support to the families of the four dead ones—all CNMI residents.

"We advise the community to go about their normal routine. We are safe," Inos said.

Prior to this, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez also held a news briefing at CHC.

The lone suspect shot and killed four residents, including a 2-year-old girl and a 4-year-old boy in the vicinity of a private shooting range in Kannat Tabla late yesterday morning.

A lone survivor at this site is a 4-year-old girl who is in critical condition at the lone government-run hospital.

The suspect, an Asian male, then went to the popular tourist spot Banzaii Cliff in Marpi where he shot Korean tourists, injuring seven, including a 5-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy, at past 11am.

The local media outlets covering the shooting reports were joined by Korean and Japanese media.

Inos, during the news briefing, said the Nov. 23 gubernatorial runoff elections will be held as scheduled.

'Hearts and prayers'

When reports of the shootings came out, people started posting bits of information and messages of concern on Facebook. In restaurants and offices, stories about the shooting spree spread like wildfire, many of them initially inaccurate.

In a statement last night, Fitial said "hearts and prayers go out to the families and friends of the victims in today's shooting and most especially to those that were fatally wounded."

"The lt. governor and I are in constant communication with officials at the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Health Center to ensure that all the individuals involved, as well as their families, are receiving the best care and attention," said Fitial.

School lockdown

The governor said the Public School System was alerted and followed standard operating procedure by safely securing all of the student body and personnel.

DPS alerted PSS around 3pm that the situation was contained and no threats remained to the public.

"My utmost thanks go out to the hard working individuals of the DPS, CHC, and many other first responders for their prompt action to stabilize the situation. We would also like to thank many in our community for comforting the families affected. We will continue to monitor the investigation and will report more information as it becomes available," said Fitial.

Political events cancelled

The Covenant Party and the Republican Party cancelled their separate 4pm roadside waving on Saipan because of the shootings, out of respect for the families of the victims and for the safety of everyone.

The Fitial-Inos team of the Covenant Party will be facing off with Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and his running mate Speaker Arnold I. Palacios of the Republican Party in the first CNMI gubernatorial runoff election on Nov. 23.

Inos said the Covenant Party cancelled the road waving near the Microl-Beach Road intersection, but will resume campaigning today at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Hofschneider, in a phone interview, confirmed that the Republicans cancelled the road waving near the Shell Dandan station also set for 4pm Friday.

"Everything's been cancelled for the safety of everyone and out of respect for the families of the victims. It is an unfortunate incident," said Hofschneider, who was on Rota yesterday.

DPH

From Page 1

patients in the [intensive care unit] who are very serious," Brostrom told *Saipan Tribune*.

Dr. Trent Scheibe, attending physician at the CHC Emergency Room, disclosed that a 39-year-old Korean man who was admitted to the hospital at 11:30am for a gunshot wound in the back is now at the ICU in critical condition.

The other critically injured patient is a 4-year-old girl who was among those shot in Kannat Tabla.

5 dead, 8 wounded

The five individuals who were killed in yesterday's shooting incident were all pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital, according to Villagomez.

Of the five fatalities, four are local residents, including two men in their late 20s and two children under the age of 10. All four are believed related to one another and all came from the Kannat Tabla area. The fifth fatality is the presumed "shooter."

Villagomez also clarified that there were eight injuries: seven Korean tourists and the 4-year-old local girl. Police reports indicated just six: five tourists and the local girl.

Hospital officials said that, of the eight injuries, two Korean men aged 47 and 38 have already been discharged.

Dr. Scheibe said a 38-year-old Korean male was shot in the left chest and right arm. Although pronounced in stable condition, he was kept at the hospital for overnight observation.

Another 38-year-old Korean male was also admitted for injuries. He was pronounced in stable condition.

There were also two Korean children injured in the shooting: a 5-year-old girl for laceration in the face and a 7-year-old boy who was shot in his right arm. Both are being kept at the hospital for observation.

Mental health

Villagomez said the hospital also called in mental health personnel to provide assistance to the victims and their families.

Also attending to the immediate situation at the hospital is the American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter, led by executive director John Hirsh, who said the group sent its disaster mental health specialists to help.

The hospital was flooded with an unusual number of visitors in the emergency section. Korean nationals, police officers, lawmakers, and community members were seen in groups outside the facility waiting for reports on the progress of the patients.

Health officials also accommodated an unusual number of international media representatives from Japan and South Korea.

'Consulates of Japan, Korea worried'

Villagomez disclosed that the consulate of Japan immediately contacted his office to inquire about the incident.

"The Japanese Consulate had already contacted us about the incident because they are worried that Japanese citizens may be involved in the incident," he said.

Officials of the Korean Association of Saipan expressed disbelief about the incident and several members immediately rushed to the hospital to attend to the victims.

The association's president, Gyunggu Rhee, told *Saipan Tribune* through an interpreter that officers of the Korean Consulate in Guam are on their way to Saipan to personally attend to the situation.

They were expected to arrive early last night, according to the association's spokesperson.

The spokesman added that the incident was immediately reported to the Guam office as part of the association's protocol.

The association has yet to issue an official statement pending the arrival of Korean consular officials from Guam.

RAMPAGE

From Page 1

A man, described by police as an Asian male in his late 30's to early 40's, shot dead four local residents, including two children, and injured another girl at a shooting range in Kannat Tabla yesterday morning, then proceeded to the Last Command Post in Marpi where he opened fire on a group of Korean tourists, before fatally shooting himself at Banzai Cliff.

Police and hospital reports on the number of injuries are conflicting, with police saying there were six wounded, five of them tourists. The hospital says there were eight injuries: seven tourists and the girl that survived the shooting in Kannat Tabla.

The shooter, whose identity is still being withheld by police, sustained a gunshot wound to the head. An Office of the Governor statement said the wound was self-inflicted. Unconfirmed reports indicated he was an employee of the shooting range. No motive has been established yet for the shooting.

Killed at the Kannat Tabla Shooting Range were two men in their late 20's who were shot in the head, a 4-year-old boy who was shot in the chest, and a 2-year-old girl who was shot in the neck.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason Tarkong said the four victims were found within a few feet of each other in the pavilion area of the shooting range.

Tarkong said they're still verifying information about the relationship of the four victims and declined to release their identities.

Tarkong said a 4-year-old girl who was shot in the left chest survived and was listed in critical condition at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Tarkong said the injured victims at the Last Command Post shooting were a 39-year-old man, two 38-year-old men, an 8-year-old boy, and a 5-year-old girl. The 39-year-old man was listed in critical condition at CHC due to a gunshot wound on the back.

Both 38-year-old men are stable and were admitted for observation. One was shot in the left chest, left arm, and right forearm. The other was shot in the right thigh and right buttock.

The 8-year-old boy has minor lacerations on the face. He was treated and released. The 5-year-old girl had minor lacerations on the right arm. She was also released.

Marpi rampage

Tarkong said DPS received a report of a shooting in Marpi at 11:21am. When police arrived at the Last Command Post, they learned from witnesses that the suspect was aboard a white Toyota Previa van and had fired into a crowd of tourists.

Several victims were transported to CHC for gunshot wounds. The suspect's vehicle—an old model white Toyota Previa van—was last seen driving toward the Banzai Cliff area.

Police officers approached Banzai Cliff and were met by witnesses in tour buses who reported seeing a man shooting a rifle in the area.

Police found the van parked by the cliff line of Banzai Cliff. The van was tinted and there was smoke coming from inside the car.

Police officers broke the van's rear window and found it empty of passengers. Police recovered three semi-automatic rifles in the van.

A few minutes later, officers found the suspect's body lying on the edge of the cliff line several yards south of the van.

The suspect was dressed in a dark T-shirt, blue jean jacket and blue jeans. A dark handkerchief was found near his body. He was armed with a .223 rifle caliber that he had strapped on his shoulder.

Preliminary investigation showed that the suspect was traveling south on Chalan Pale Arnold Road when he opened fire on tourists who were sightseeing at the Last Command Post.

After firing several shots, the suspect made a right turn toward Banzai Cliff and headed west. Police later discovered the suspect's body.

Kannat Tabla shooting

At 12:01pm, DPS emergency personnel responded to a reported shooting incident at the Kannat Tabla Shooting Range, where police officers found four dead bodies. An ambulance brought the lone survivor to CHC for further treatment.

Witnesses described the suspect to the police and the description matched the man who was found dead with a gunshot wound to the head at Banzai Cliff.

"It is possible that the two shooting incidents may be related and involving the same suspect," Tarkong said.

Police officers immediately cordoned the entrance area of the shooting range located along Lone Lane corner Kannat Tabla Drive. A Drug Enforcement Administration special agent and a staff of the U.S. Attorney's Office were seen in the vicinity of the crime scene.

At 2pm, medics transported all four fatalities into an ambulance. *Saipan Tribune* saw two medics shaking their heads as they went to their emergency vehicle.

Police officers also blocked motorists from going to the Last Command Post area and Banzai Cliff.

The shooting rampage, a first in the history of the CNMI, stunned residents and caused panic.

The CNMI government is UPSIDE DOWN.
Only "YOU" can straighten it out.

The election is on Monday, November 23, 2009
Polls are open 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Hofschneider-Palacios

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 279

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A carbon target for Copenhagen

Climate change was at the top of President Obama's agenda in China Tuesday, just three weeks before representatives from 192 countries meet in Copenhagen for a much-anticipated international climate conference. And he came tantalizingly close to saying what the rest of the world has been waiting years to hear: that next month the United States, the largest per capita emitter of greenhouse gases, will finally come to the table with a specific carbon reduction target.

In a news conference after his meeting with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Mr. Obama supported Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen's proposal for a far-reaching political agreement at Copenhagen—one that "covers all of the issues in the negotiations, and one that has immediate operational effect." And the joint statement that Mr. Obama and Mr. Hu released indicated that a Copenhagen agreement, while not legally binding, should "include emission reduction targets of developed countries and nationally appropriate mitigation actions of developing countries."

The United States is the only developed country that has yet to announce a carbon target, even as developing economies such as Brazil have unveiled mitigation policies. China, meanwhile, has talked of a significant reduction in the carbon intensity of its industry, and Tuesday's joint statement indicates it might enshrine that in an international agreement—a big step that probably depends on American movement.

Indeed, some kind of American target, even one that the full Senate has not yet endorsed, would ease negotiations on some huge issues, including how to verify countries' carbon reductions and how to help developing nations cope with climate change or get off of carbon-spewing development paths. As Mr. Obama indicated in Beijing, identifying or building the institutions necessary to do such things could begin immediately after Copenhagen—if the parties can agree. Carbon reduction commitments that are contingent on the action of others might kick in. And big developing nations might put specific promises on the table or even agree to enter their commitments into an international legal framework. Mr. Obama could bring all of that home and claim that the United States got something in return for announcing a target—something U.S. negotiators couldn't claim after the 1997 Kyoto negotiations.

Mr. Obama left himself wiggle room in Beijing, and American negotiators have been wary of getting ahead of the Senate. But that argument goes only so far. One reason for the Senate's delay is that Mr. Obama chose to focus on health-care reform before climate change, even though Copenhagen loomed. He should take the lead on climate now.

The House has endorsed a 17 percent reduction in carbon emissions from the 2005 level, and the Senate is considering a 20 percent cut. The administration is also moving forward with Environmental Protection Agency regulation that does not require congressional approval. Mr. Obama should be able to produce a number or a range of numbers that reflects the level of emissions reduction the United States can achieve.

© The Washington Post 2009

Battle of the Blue and Green

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

This column is known for being heavy on metaphors. It stems out of a pedagogical insight that understands images to be more powerful than abstract concepts, which is not to say, we are not unfortunately heavy on abstractions as well. But the above title plays on the color of political groups in this runoff election in the CNMI, and this being island politics, it should be at least, and at once, serious and entertaining.

The blue is surprisingly an identifying color for the Republicans, a color on the national scene more commonly associated with the Democrats as red is to the Republicans. But Heinz and Arnold are backdropped by the blue in all their posters and colored ads, with their look of stoicism and cultivated nonchalance.

Green is, of course, the color of the Covenant Party, which should not be confused with the greening of the planet and the discarding of plastic bags in the grocery store checkout counter, but more with tropical warmth and fertility, foliage and fecundity. Ben and Eloy are your beaming Uncles ready to pull out of their pockets a desired candy bar and extend their assistance if you ask for it, calling you their niece or nephew even if the kinship is more than a few generations removed.

Elvis the Pelvis did *Blue Hawaii* and the color is the accepted metaphor for the deceptively tranquil Pacific Ocean. Serenity presides at the surface while the undercurrents can both give pleasure in surfing the waves, or devastate the shore in a sudden onslaught of a tsunami. The blue Aegean Sea is a metaphor for enlightenment, "seeing things clearly," and it would not be a surprise if that theme is a quiet allusion to the stance of the Heinz and Arnold tandem.

To be green among Pinoys is to be playful, salacious, risqué and titillating. We go with the playful. The last time I chanced being on the same flight with Governor Fitial, he grinned his characteristic grin and called me Mr. Viagra. I have yet to decide whether that was to compliment my seeming masculine virility, or to point to my waning years with the *man'amkos* and that I needed extra chemical stimulant to keep my pulchritudinous interest up.

We've used in previous reflections the dichotomy of the *taotao tasi* to refer to the people of the waters as contrasted with the *taotao tano* who are people of the land. My friend Lino Olopai had gone Blue Hawaii on medical referral at this writing and his book, the *Rope of Tradition*, is a narrative on the reflections of a Saipan Carolinian. He would be my *Refaluwasch* pride of the near shore fisher who lives off the flora and fauna of the sea, and an interisland sailor who dares to ply the unknown horizon with nothing but chanted traditions learned around bonfires in one's youth, using the wave's lap tap against the side of an outrigger in sails, and/or wind and ocean currents, and/or the position of the stars, to determine location and direction in navigating one's course. Though Ben is of Carolinian oceanfaring descent, in the blue and green designation, he would be more of the person of the land, the *taotao tano* (we hear Greg S. Cruz' grudging objections) rather than the *taotao tasi* sailor of the sea.

The Ben and Eloy team are campaigning on the claim of "experience and proven leadership." That sentiment belongs more to the *taotao tano's* sense of safety in the harbor, and the tested and proven industry of tilling to fructify the land, rather than the venturesomeness of the restless in the open sea and harvesting the whimsical offerings of the ocean floor. On the other hand, the HA/hp team's clamor for "leadership change" stems from the measured decision that the prevailing situation will not abide and when one is headed in the wrong direction into the ocean deep, one has no option but to change with either the prevailing wind or the tow of the currents. The *taotao tasi's* character is being played out by the Republican duo.

Can the rationality of the ocean blue compete with the lush island green?

Maybe we can shift to ask what the prevailing winds are that blows wildly in our faces; what contemporary social currents pulls at our feet demanding a response of authentic and practical marching orders?

James Carville of the Clinton ascendancy to the White House popularized the phrase, "The economy, stupid." It focused the Clinton's campaign and earned them a couple of terms inside the beltway. That phrase echoes loudly in this year's gubernatorial election.

There are three economic prongs in my image: What resources do we have and how do we ensure that its uses are sustainable? Our resources are natural, human and technological. Our natural capital resource is our island and accessible ocean floors. They need to be kept green and clean so that island habitat and ocean harvest remain sustainable.

What human resources have we on hand that has the expertise to implement technological innovations in both the protection and utilization of natural resources and the production process of goods and services that accrue benefit to the broadest number of residents? A service is sustainable when it is shown to be commercially viable, the return of which is utilized to further develop the resource and improve on the efficiency of the production of desired products.

How do our candidates rate in the protection of our natural capital, the judicious use of our human resource, and the rapid alignment

See BATTLE on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

You proved my point…and then some

Thank you Mr. Del Rosario, Jr.; your letter of Nov. 19 has proven the point of my previous "rambling"; and you did it without even addressing a single question and without a single point of reference. For those who are actually interested in learning about your ancestors and where they really came from, I offer the following abbreviated list (which I obviously "failed to research"). See for yourself:

1) "The Colonization of the Pacific: Some Current Hypotheses." Bellwood, P. S.

2) "In the Colonization of the Pacific: A Genetic Trail." Edited by Adrian V. S. Hill and Susan W. Serjeantson. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1989.

3) "Genetic Relationships of Micronesian Populations: A Project Update." Lum, J. Koji and Gary M. Heathcote.

4) "Anthropology Resource & Research Center Non-Technical Report Series, no. 1" Mangilao, Guam: University of Guam, 1998.

5) "Genetic Classification of the Austronesian Languages: A Key to Oceanic Culture History." Murdock, George P.

6) "In Peoples and Cultures of the Pacific" Ed. Andrew P. Vayda. Garden City New York: The Natural History Press, 1968.

7) "DNA Evidence of Chamoru Origins: Genetic Relationships of Micronesian Populations" Submitted courtesy of Dr. Lawrence J. Cunningham with permission of the National Resource Center for Micronesian Studies, Richard Taitano, Micronesian Area Research Center, University of Guam

In short, all currently accepted scientific and anthropological evidence indicates that modern day Chamorros and aboriginal Malays have common maternal ancestors originating in the Bornean archipelago and the Malay Peninsula and that they are distinct from any other Pacific Island groups. As to the other unsupported statements of Mr. Del Rosario, Jr., well, they speak for themselves.

You speak of "your" culture and ancient "sovereignty" as one, thus confusing "ethnicity" with "nationality" in a transparent attempt to confuse the distinct lines between both of them and "politics" as well. Simply put, there were no sovereign nations in the Pacific prior to the Spanish conquests and the culture of the NMI today is the admixture of all the prior subjugations and cultures, good or bad, including religion.

If you are so attached to the ancients, then why is not your religion "polytheistic paganism" and your surname something like *"Quetogua"*? Your question as to why religion in the NMI is not "Muslim" (an incorrect reference to "Islam" in the same sentence with "Christianity") if origin was the Malay Peninsula demonstrates a true lack of historical knowledge: you see, Islam was *founded* about 1,400 years *after* the first peoples emigrated to what is now the Mariana Islands.

Instead of whining about more potential losses, be proud of what once was, remember it, *teach* it to the children and when possible, revere and memorialize it; maintain the idea of the culture and the pride and teach others to respect it. But I doubt you will be able to restore its paganistic rituals and religion or its language because the mere march of history changes and blurs things. That does not mean they must be "forgotten" or "submissive" to any current political agenda.

I am well aware of those provisions of the Covenant that require mutual consent and those that allow unilateral action without consent. Anyone who has read the Covenant with "plain language" understanding (as is normally used in judicial decision making processes when reviewing "legal" documents) and the various reports available is able to effectively and correctly understand the differences rather than remain in denial that certain texts even exist. I do not believe that anyone is trying to force you or any "people" with a historical pride into any abyss, much less one of submission. The majority of the people of the NMI have chosen of their own free will a particular political alignment; and that alone requires some adherence to the tenets of the alliance—but certainly *not* submission to doctrine at the decimation of *culture*.

Perhaps the following "my failure to research" documents would also be of interest: "The Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of The Northern Marianas Islands": Report of the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs: United States Senate to accompany H. J. Res. 549 (4th Congress - 1st Session - report 94-433). The report states in pertinent part on page 65 – IV: Section by Section Analysis, Article 1 - Political Relationship Section 101: "This section constitutes the basic provision of the Covenant. It provides (1) that the Northern Mariana Islands will be under sovereignty of the United States. Etc., etc." and: "This section establishes beyond any question that the Northern Marianas will be subject to the sovereignty of the United States." And: page 369 of Mr. Howard Willens' co-authored book: *An Honorable Accord - The Covenant Between the Northern Marianas and the United States* points out: "They (U.S. Representatives) pointed to the covenant provisions expressly recognizing the sovereignty of the United States, the authority of Congress to legislate for the Northern Marianas, etc., etc." See also page 378 in the Appendix of "Honorable Accord" for Article I Political Relationship (as quoted above).

Finally, I really was under the impression that the *Tribune*'s editorial policy would pre-empt the printing of racially oriented personal attacks. The reference to "white Anglo-Saxon predator" displays for all to see a rather racist viewpoint, don't you think?

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Indigenous Group's position

Last Wednesday night on KSPN2, Republican Gubernatorial candidate Heinz Hofschneider accused the heads of NMI Descent for Self-Government of being paid to express our views and take a position on gubernatorial tandem.

Firstly, we will be suing Mr. Hofschneider for such irresponsible and blatant lie with the obvious and purposeful intent to slander our group just for the sake of misguiding the innocent. He has no inkling that freedom of speech comes with the term responsibility.

You never came out in support of the federal lawsuit contesting the violation of our rights to self-government for fear of upsetting Uncle Sam.

You found out rather late that our mission has tilted the impending runoff election in favor of the incumbent. Thus, you made a last ditch appeal to spin the truth to one of outright lies.

We wanted to ensure which tandem has the interest of our people at heart. You vacillated as though there's always tomorrow to recant your story. But then your position fully expressed in two debates was loud and clear. It is furthest from the position being advocated by our group on indigenous rights. You toyed with our sentiments as a fly-by cotton ball. No sir! It's the future of our children!

It was a position however adverse against your candidacy. But it had to be taken to protect the interest of our children across the country who have sent text messages saying "...please stand up for our rights". You were far more interested in accommodating foreigners than your very own. Does it hurt to hear yourself repeat your positions completely against the desire of our indigenous people? Did you have to make unfounded accusations for the sake of making gains superficially for the most coveted seat?

To say that we are very disappointed about your lies is an understatement. Heinz, change is a very slow process and takes years to make any inroads. You started your theme of "change" way too late. Even more disappointing is your audacity to insult the integrity, intelligence and dignity of our indigenous people. Well, you have dug up your own grave. We'd be there for your political internment.

John S. DelRosario, Jr.
NMI Descent for Self-Government

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

The John Gonzales show that aired live on Nov. 18, 2009, from 8pm to 9pm was the most disturbing show that I as a viewer ever saw. The show featured the NMI indigenous group. They are former speaker Oscar Rasa, Dolores San Nicolas, and John Del Rosario. It was to be an educational experience that went awry. Instead of educating and promoting their plans, they went out of their way delivering their campaign message. The verbal attacks against the Heinz and Arnold team was too personal. It was totally out of proportion. The use of profanity on live television was very inappropriate. It really does not matter whom you vote for but there are limitations on what to say.

Speaker Rasa knows the Covenant inside and out. You are an educated man, but let me be clear on this, the CNMI people expects you to be a good role model for the future generation. Your group showed no professionalism, not only to the Heinz and Arnold team, but to the CNMI people as a whole. If you don't show respect to others, how do we, the CNMI people, earn your support? You have seemed to forget that the show is being viewed by hundreds, if not thousands of people. I believe someone needs a few classes in anger management.

The CNMI expected to learn something from this group but instead got a spoonful of salt. If you represent the CNMI in protecting property and culture then you must start with core values. We are all children of the Marianas, we all have different opinions to better the CNMI.

I do hope this absurd behavior does not surface on live television again, and this goes out to all who will someday participate in live television discussions. In ending this, I would like to say to all: Vote wisely, vote to the wise, and vote because it is your right and your right to make things right.

Vince G. Cabrera
Chalan Piao, Saipan

From the mouths of babes…

My name is Ashley Lee and I currently attend Mount Carmel School. Although I am only a sophomore in high school and I can't vote, I support Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios because I have seen their support of our youth, our education, our environment and our economy.

The reason why I choose to support Heinz and Arnold is because of these two reasons: improving our standard living and education.

My first reason is most basic but it is the most important. Improving the standard of living and quality of life for all our residents will boost our economy and pave the way for a more hopeful future. There are also other ways to improve the standard of living for our citizens in the Commonwealth. For example, we could eliminate taxes on individual savings plans. There are many good reasons to encourage the practices of personal savings and investment. In addition, health and safety are fundamental to the well being of our citizens, and improving housing conditions is a must. Redefining the way we approach housing is a growing need, as our population grows and fewer of our citizens are able to provide personal financing for safe and sanitary homes.

The second reason is a very important issue. I am a student from a foreign country to study the language of English. My perspective of is that education is the foundation of every person. Education makes people more intelligent and smart. Intelligence changes the society by inspiring other people or citizens. Education transforms a novice into a professional and professionals are highly needed in a developing island such as Saipan. We can say that education is a tool that would make a prosperous island.

Ashley Lee
Garapan, Saipan

Mistaken identity

There is a case of mistaken identity in one of the Ben and Eloy's ads that stands to be corrected. Under the heading "More Republicans United For Ben and Eloy" there is a photograph of three Guam governors—Joe Ada, Paul Calvo and Felix Camacho—apparently endorsing Governor Fitial. All of them are, in fact, Republicans. Unfortunately, Governor Ada was not identified in the cutline and Governor Calvo was miss-identified at Governor Carl Gutierrez.

Don A. Farrell
Marpo Heights, Tinian

BATTLE

From Page 1

of contemporary technology in the production and distribution process of the resources?

The metaphor of disciplined rationality for the blue and luxuriant sociality for the green are both valid characterizations of the choice in front of our electorate this runoff election. For example, Korean businessman Kim Hong Kyun of D.K.K. Farming Inc., is demonstrating hydroponics farming right before our very eyes, out of the doorsteps of the CK Post Office. With our abundant rainfall that can be caught and used, and the fertile island soil on a fair and steady ambient weather, there is promise for efficiency in production and a market for its produce, but can it be effective, can it be sustained, and more importantly, can the local talent take advantage of its "foreignness"?

How I think our candidates answer to that question pretty much determines my vote. Whether going blue or green, vote wisely.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

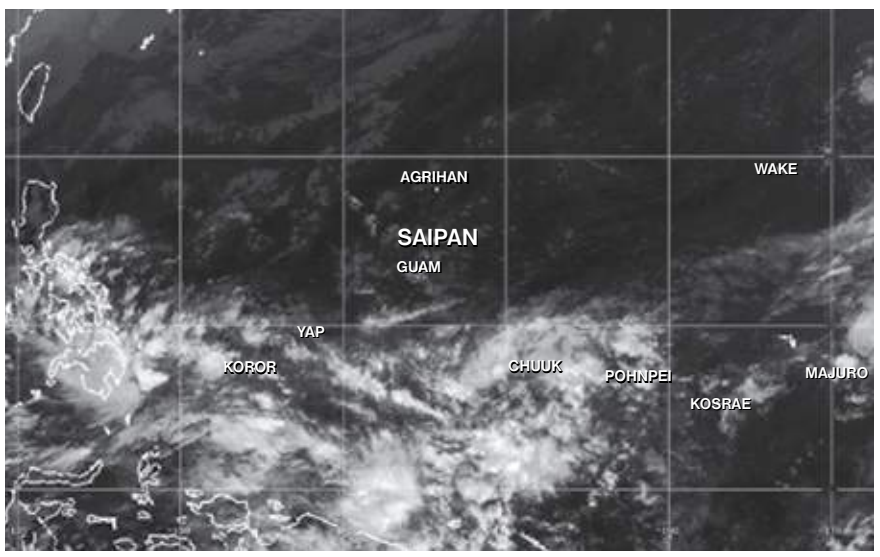
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼75
Palau	Rain	▲84	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Rain	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼80
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲74	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲35	▼25
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲63	▼59
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼72
London	Rain	▲55	▼45
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Manila	Rain	▲82	▼74
Melbourne	Showers	▲74	▼55
Miami	Cloudy	▲84	▼72
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲56	▼44
Osaka	Cloudy	▲52	▼42
Paris	Cloudy	▲55	▼45
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼32
Rome	Sunny	▲67	▼48
Salem	Rain	▲47	▼42
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲57	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲41	▼24
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲56	▼42
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲58	▼42

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends eastward from 7N130E through weak circulations centered south of Koror at 6N134E south of Chuuk at 6N151E and finally west of Majuro at 7N168E to beyond the dateline at 7N. A large area of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found over Palau, Yap and Chuuk or south of a line from 10N130E to 10N156E. A couple other areas of scattered showers with a few thunderstorms can be found near Kosrae within 75 miles of 6N165E and over portions of the Marshall Islands within 150 miles of 9N173E. An upper-level trough extends southwestward from 25N175E to 11N151E. Upper-level divergence south of the trough axis is supporting extensive cloudiness, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between 17N and 25N from 175E to 180 and up to 175 miles to the southeast of a line from 17N175E to 16N169E. A shear line extends southwestward from 25N143E to 22N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain extend along and up to 100 miles to the north of this feature.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
4:16 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
11:43 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:08 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
9:11 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:55 AM	9:26 PM
Sunday	10:38 AM	10:16 PM
Monday	11:18 AM	11:05 PM
Tuesday	11:55 AM	11:52 PM
Wednesday	12:30 PM	

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 4, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	4, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	2,4,6,7 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday

9am	Sunday school
10am	Regular worship
6pm	worship

Wednesday

7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer

7am-9am	English service
7am-9am	Sunday school
10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville

Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 21, 2000

Budget may get Senate approval
After nearly three months of scrutiny, the Senate is expected to approve the much-delayed fiscal budget in a scheduled session tomorrow with key changes to several appropriation items. Senators are also preparing for an anticipated bicameral meeting with House members as they expect rejection by the counterpart of their version of the FY 2001 budget. Sen. Edward U. Maratita, chair of the Fiscal Affairs Committee, said the upper has reached a consensus on the spending package following intense deliberation in the past few weeks. "By Wednesday, we will be able to pass the budget. Definitely, the House will reject our proposal," he told in an interview.

Rosy economy seen due to $60-M bond float
Next month's flotation of the $60 million municipal bond, which will be used to finance major infrastructure projects, will bring about the much needed push to the Northern Marianas economy, according to Development Authority Executive Director Marylou S. Ada. Ms. Ada is confident hundreds of job opportunities will be created in the local economy once the CNMI government starts rolling the ball for Capital Improvement Projects, funded under Section 702 of the Covenant. The CNMI gets $11 million annually for CIPs. The $60 million bond has been identified to declog the bottleneck of unused CIP funds that has been accumulated by the CNMI.

Nov. 21, 2001

Youthful offenses at all-time low
The number of juvenile delinquency cases reported to the Division of Youth Services dropped to an all-time low. According to the monthly statistical report obtained from the DYS, the 13 cases of juvenile delinquency recorded in October 2001 marked the first time such a significant fall was posted in eight years. Last month's 13 cases of youthful offenses include truancy, assault and battery, possession of illegal substance, theft, and assault with a dangerous weapon. The DYS report also disclosed that five of the youthful offenders were female and eight were male ranging from 12 to 16 years old.

Transition panel: Stay OPM conversion to civil service
The transition committee of the incoming Babauta administration has asked the Office of Personnel Management to temporarily put off the conversion of employees at the Office of the Governor to civil service status to give the new administration the chance to review the listings of those who will be converted. According to committee chairman Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan, he made the verbal request to acting personnel chief Norbert Sablan last week but there has been no response yet whether the OPM has agreed to the request. He added that his request was in verbal form only as his committee officially came into existence only on Monday, after the CNMI Commission on Elections certified the official winners in the November 3 elections.

Nov. 21, 2002

MPLA's commissioner sacked
The Marianas Public Lands Authority Board of Directors decided yesterday to "let go" of MPLA commissioner Bertha Deleon Guerrero. The board handed down the decision Wednesday, the day Deleon Guerrero was supposed to resume work from an overseas trip. Deleon Guerrero was on leave from Nov. 14 to Nov. 19. In a Nov. 20 memorandum signed by acting MPLA board chair Manuel P. Villagomez of Tinian, the board designated deputy commissioner Henry S. Hofschneider as acting commissioner "effective immediately." At the same time, the board appointed Real Estate Division chief Frank M. Eliptico as acting deputy commissioner. "These delegations of authority shall continue until further notice," Villagomez said.

GHLI patients freed from cash deposit
With Group Health and Life Insurance paying off $1 million of its outstanding medical claims, two hospitals in Hawaii have lifted the cash requirement they were imposing on Group Health patients. Hawaii Pacific Medical Referrals operations manager Regina Torres said that both Straub Clinic and Hospital and the Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children are no longer requiring Group Health patients to put up a cash deposit when they check in at these hospitals.

Nation

Pentagon looking for Fort Hood management lapses

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Pentagon said Thursday it will scour its procedures for identifying volatile soldiers hidden in the ranks following the Fort Hood shooting rampage and lapses that might allow others to slip through bureaucratic cracks.

West

"It is prudent to determine immediately whether there are internal weaknesses or procedural shortcomings in the department that could make us vulnerable in the future," Defense Secretary Robert Gates said.

A 45-day emergency investigation will examine personnel, medical, mental health, discharge and other policies in all corners of the vast Defense Department. It will also look at ways to improve security and emergency response at Defense Department facilities.

"The shootings at Fort Hood raise a number of troubling questions that demand complete but prompt answers," Gates told a Pentagon news conference.

The quick review will be led by two former Pentagon officials, former Army Secretary Togo West and former Navy chief Vernon Clark.

A longer, second review lasting about six months will look at what Gates called "systemic institutional shortcomings." Gates, who has fired several top officials in three years heading the Pentagon, did not address any possible consequences of the inquiries he announced Thursday.

Republicans blast 'bait and switch' health bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Digging in for a long struggle, Republican senators and governors assailed the Democrats' newly minted health care legislation Thursday as a collection of tax increases, Medicare cuts and heavy new burdens for deficit-ridden states.

Despite the criticism, there were growing indications Democrats would prevail on an initial Senate showdown set for Saturday night, and Majority Leader Harry Reid crisply rebutted the Republican charges. The bill "will save lives, save money and save Medicare," he said.

The legislation is designed to answer President Barack Obama's call to expand coverage, end industry practices such as denying coverage on the basis of pre-existing medical conditions, and restrain the growth of health care spending.

Republicans saw little to like.

"It makes no sense at all and affronts common sense," said Sen. Judd Gregg of New Hampshire, one of several Republicans to criticize the measure. He added that a plan to expand Medicaid, the state-federal program for the poor, was a "bait and switch" with states as the victims.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on November 24th, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before November 24th.

THIS WILL BE THE ONLY NOTIFICATION IT&E CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE*.

* You have the right to dispute this notice. You must state your claim in person or in writing no later than November 24th. You must pay any amount not in dispute to avoid disconnection. Payment denotes acceptance of all charges.

If you have questions regarding billing or service please call Customer Service at **682-4ITE (4483)** or visit our Customer Service Representatives at our Chalan Lau-Lau Office.

IT&E
Life in Motion

From the Desk of Governor Benigno Repeki Fitial

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI FROM GOVERNOR FITIAL

November 20th, 2009

Hafa Adai yanTirowami

Four years ago, you the voters bestowed on me the greatest honor possible by electing me as your Governor and I want to personally thank each and every one of you.

As Governor there are days when every decision you make affects the lives of the people of the Commonwealth. I have taken this responsibility seriously and I want you to know that I will continue to do everything in my power to ensure that the quality of life for all of the citizens of the Commonwealth improves day after day.

I am proud of the accomplishments that my administration has delivered for the NMI over the last few years and I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the next term to continue to deliver Results.

It is easy for people to talk about what they will do but it is much harder to actually deliver – my experience serving the People of the NMI stretches over 30 years both in the Private Sector and Public Sector and I have Proven that with Hard Work and a deep understanding of the issues, results and accomplishments will follow.

I also want to thank you for allowing me to sit in your homes and become part of your families. I am deeply humbled by the hospitality and friendship that you have shown me. We have laughed together, cried together, and most importantly worked together towards making the NMI a better place to live, grow, and prosper.

With the Runoff election coming on Monday, I urge all of you to please Make the "Right" Choice and vote Ben and Eloy. Our job is not done and with you at my side I know we will continue to make our Commonwealth Stronger and Better!

Thank you Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan Olomwaay

Your Governor Benigno Repeki Fitial

Covenant PARTY NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

www.beneloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

On November 23rd, CNMI Voters will have a Clear Choice! And it's the "Right" one!
The Team of Ben and Eloy are the only ones with Proven Experience

In an effort to assist in your decision we wanted to provide you with the differences between our Teams.

Our Opponents	Issue	Fitial/Inos
Missed several votes on the budget within the last few months. 16 years in the legislature and passed 1 (one) budget. Continually borrowed money from fellow legislators' office accounts to supplement his own staff	**Fiscal Responsibility**	Stopped Deficit spending and introduced balance budgeting. Sold government vehicles, curtailed car leases, cut unneeded government phone lines and cell phones. Slashed $83 million from Government Operating Expenses
Introduced H.B. 16-20, to kill the Retirement Fund by providing an unfunded government severance package rejected by the NMIRF Chairman Juan "Pan" Guerrero and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce	**Retirement Fund**	Stopped the actuarial accrued liability (unfunded liability) and saved $120 million in the first year alone after introducing the Defined Contribution Plan to the Retirement Fund
Opposed Aggreko, Killed privatization effort by passing unrealistic $250 million minimum selling requirement, passed law to charge below cost	**CUC**	Hired competent management, secured Aggreko engines and ended rolling power outages; rehabilitated CUC engines; provided stable monthly billing for all CUC customers
Supported Federalization and did not oppose restrictions on Chinese and Russian tourists, Failed to submit comments to DHS	**Federalization**	Supported local self-government, our Covenant, sued to protect our economy and maintain access to workers and investors
Wanted to allocate all cover over funds to general fund for spending instead of paying refunds & rebates to the taxpayers and private sector	**Tax Refund/Rebates and Cover Over Tax**	Secured $50 million in cover over funds and consistently paid tax refunds and rebates on time for the first time in years
Talked about importance of tourism	**Tourism**	Secured charter flights to Rota, increased Korea flights
16 years and NO new investments	**New Investments brought to CNMI**	Lao Lao Bay Development Rota Water Bottling Facility New Casino developments New shipyard facility
Talked about bringing in more federal funds	**Federal Investment/Grants**	Secured $96 million in ARRA fund awards
In 2005 Debate stated: "Students can't even put a sentence together" when justifying taking laptops away from the kids	**Education**	Secured more than $30 million in Stabilization funds, allocated CIP funds for GTC classrooms, Every Senior in high school will receive a laptop at the beginning School Year 2010-2011
Early 1980's Managed Shell Gas Station	**Private Sector Experience**	President, Bank of Saipan VP, Tan Holdings Corp. Special Consultant, L&T Corp President, Century Insurance President, CTSI President, Pacific Oriental

We trust you the voter to make the "Right" Choice on November 23rd.

Vote BEN & ELOY

Proven Leadership + Proven Experience = Real Results!

Covenant PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

www.beneloy.com

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT FITIAL-INOS

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, November 21, 2009

Manila throws party for Pacquiao's homecoming

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

Filipino boxing great Manny Pacquiao and his mother Dionesia hold his championship belts following his arrival in Manila, Philippines Friday Nov. 20, 2009 from Los Angeles, Calif.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The city's notorious traffic came to a halt and thousands lined streets and bridges Friday to cheer their hero Manny Pacquiao, who returned home pondering his next moves—facing Floyd Mayweather Jr. and seeking a congressional seat.

Fresh from stopping welterweight champion Miguel Cotto in Las Vegas on Saturday, Pacquiao stepped from the plane still nursing an injured right ear and said he saw no problem facing Mayweather in the next megafight.

"I am willing to fight Mayweather as long as there's an agreement," the 30-year-old said. "But we don't want to force him to fight me. He should be the one to challenge me because it was clear I had more pay-per-view than him."

Mayweather issued a statement Monday in which he said, "If Manny Pacquiao wants to fight me, all he has to do is step up to the plate and say it himself."

Pacquiao's promoter Bob Arum said Thursday his Filipino star was willing to fight at welterweight (147 pounds, 67 kilograms) and that he was waiting to hear from Golden Boy Promotions chief Richard Schaefer, who has assisted Mayweather's team on his most recent fights.

For the time being, Pacquiao said he just wants a vacation with his family. "I want to relax and my ear injury to heal," he told reporters, saying he will soon fly to his southern home province.

From there, he said he would file his nomination for a congressional seat in next year's elections. It will be Pacquiao's second jab at politics after his 2007 campaign fell short.

His popularity has become overwhelming. He recently made the cover of *Time* magazine in Asia and is by far the most recognized person in the Philippines.

A former baker and construction worker born to a poor family, Pacquiao became an embodiment of a rags-to-riches story in the country where one-third of the 90 million people live on less than $1 a day.

Standing in a flattop truck and surrounded by his wife and the country's environment secretary, his longtime supporter, Pacquiao waved to the crowds and threw them T-shirts emblazoned with a fist shaped in letters "MP" and draped in colors of the Philippine flag.

He will be conferred the Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu, by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila in the afternoon.

The Order of Sikatuna is normally awarded "for distinguished service in the field of foreign relations," according to an executive order that created it. It is usually awarded to diplomats, officials and nationals of foreign states.

Previous recipients included US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and the late Jaime Cardinal Sin.

■ ■ ■ ■

Traffic on the streets of Metro Manila ground to a halt as the victory parade of Manny Pacquiao made its way through the metropolis on Friday.

Despite the scorching heat, thousands of Pacquiao's eager followers filled the streets to show their adulation for the Filipino boxing sensation whose latest conquest of Miguel Cotto earned him a niche in history as the winningest boxer of all time, with seven world titles to his name in as many weight divisions.

Near the corner of Roosevelt and Quezon Avenues in Quezon City, a driver climbed on top of his passenger jeep and raised a bottle of soft drinks as if offering a victory toast.

"Mabuhay ka, Manny [Long live Manny]," the man shouted.

Work in almost all business establishments along Quezon Avenue in Quezon City and Manila virtually stopped as employees went out of their offices to greet Pacquiao.

Pacquiao's convoy left the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Quezon City around 10:30 a.m. and was expected to tour around the major streets of Quezon City, Manila, Pasay and Makati.

With Pacquiao are his wife Jinky and Environment Secretary Lito Atienza who feted him with a rousing welcome at the DENR earlier Friday.

Pacquiao arrived at the DENR office at 9:25 a.m. to a shower of confetti and band music.

In a short speech in Filipino at the DENR, Pacquiao thanked his supporters and dedicated his victory to the people.

Earlier in the day, Pacquiao went to Quiapo Church, as in the past, for a thanksgiving Mass. He arrived in Manila at 5:30 a.m. Friday. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Double-digit rise in remittances seen

By MICHELLE REMO, RONNEL DOMINGO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Growth in remittances will likely enter double-digit territory in December as Filipinos abroad, perked up by improving global economic conditions, are expected to send in more cash for the holidays.

Goldman Sachs projected an 11 percent annual growth in remittances to $1.55 billion for December.

Rising prices of oil in the world market, which fuels growth of countries in the Middle East—host to many Filipino workers—may boost the amount of money sent to the Philippines, Goldman Sachs said in a paper on its assessment of the Philippine economy.

The investment bank also said the improving global economic climate, which prompted some firms to rehire laid off workers, would also support growth in remittances.

In addition, Filipinos abroad normally send more money to their loved ones in December, when households increase spending for the holidays.

In the past months, growth in remittances had slowed to a single-digit level after the United States and other industrialized countries fell into recession.

From January to September, remittances amounted to $12.8 billion, up 4.2 percent from $12.27 billion in the same period a year ago.

The fastest year-on-year growth in remittances so far this year came in September, when money sent in reached $1.33 billion, up 8.6 percent.

Goldman Sachs said remittances would further grow in the coming months.

As a consequence, it expects the peso to strengthen to 44.58 to a dollar within the next three months, 45.5 within the next six months, and 44.5 within the next 12 months.

"We expect remittances to become increasingly more supportive of the [peso]," Goldman Sachs said.

This view is supported by Singapore-based DBS Bank, which expects the peso to settle at 44 to the dollar by the end of next year as the country improves its liquidity position.

In its daily report on the regional financial market issued Nov. 19, DBS said the peso proved to be more resilient to budget deficits this year than in the past.

The bank said that, even though the budget deficit had ballooned to P266.1 billion in the 10 months to October, the peso stayed largely within its post-crisis range of 46.35 and 48.70 against the dollar.

Philippine troops kill militant commander

By OLIVER TEVES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine troops killed a senior commander of al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf militants wanted for kidnappings and bombings amid an ongoing offensive, the military said Friday.

Abdulla Ajijul was killed Wednesday during a raid on his hide-out in southern Basilan province's Al Barka township, in an area where the militants have evaded U.S.-backed military operations for years, said Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino.

Dolorfino described Ajijul as an "urban terrorist leader" behind bomb attacks and ransom kidnappings in southern Zamboanga city. He carried a 3.3 million peso ($70,000) reward on his head, Dolorfino said.

The military "scored a significant gain in its anti-terrorism campaign," he said.

Troops recovered from the hide-out an assault rifle with a scope, but Dolorfino declined to give other details of the raid because it was an intelligence-driven operation.

The military has been hunting down a group of Abu Sayyaf militants accused of beheading a schoolteacher early this month in Basilan when his family could not raise the money for his ransom.

It was one of the latest killings blamed on the Abu Sayyaf, who are notorious for terrorist attacks and kidnappings.

The Abu Sayyaf is suspected of receiving funds from al-Qaida. It is believed to have about 400 fighters on the island province of Basilan, close to Zamboanga and farther south on Jolo Island. The group has also been sheltering militants from the larger Southeast Asian terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah, the military says.

Despite years of U.S. military training and assistance, Filipino troops have struggled to contain the militants, who have recently intensified attacks on Jolo, blowing up bridges, firing mortar rounds and setting off roadside bombs.

A Sept. 29 land mine explosion under a military convoy carrying American troops killed two U.S. Army Special Forces soldiers—the first U.S. military deaths in the southern Philippines in seven years.

PHILIPPINE BRIEFS

Girl hurt in Davao Sur blast

MATANAO, Davao del Sur— A 12-year-old girl was wounded when two motorcycle-riding men lobbed a grenade near the house of a village official of Barangay Sinawilan here Thursday night, the police said Friday. Mantanao police chief inspector Melgrace Driz said the incident took place at around 8:18 p.m. in Kilometer 69. Driz said investigators recovered the grenade's safety lever and several metal fragments from the blast site. The police, she said, was still investigating if the incident had something to do with the upcoming elections. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Davao Sur village exec hurt in shooting

Davao del Sur—A community leader of Sitio Balagonon in Barangay Managa here was shot and wounded Thursday night by a suspected member of New People's Army (NPA), the police said Friday. Bansalan police chief inspector Solomon De Castilla identified the victim as Rolly Diopelo, 39, who sustained a gunshot wound in the right buttock and was rushed to a hospital. De Castilla said the victim was inside his house when he was shot by the suspect. The assailant, whom witnesses identified to be an NPA member, immediately fled after the incident, De Castilla said. "The victim is in a government hospital and we are conducting follow-up investigation to determine why he was attacked," he said. Managa is one of villages here frequented by NPA rebels, according to the police. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Palace exec's son killed; cops eye road rage case

MANILA, Philippines—The son of a Malacañang official was shot dead inside his sport utility vehicle by a foreign-looking man on Santolan Road, near the corner of Ortigas Avenue, in Barangay Valencia, Quezon City, on Wednesday night. Supt. Ferdinand Ampil, Quezon City Police District Station 7 commander, identified the victim as Renato Victor Ebarle Jr., 27, whose father is Presidential Chief of Staff Undersecretary Renato Ebarle Sr. The younger Ebarle worked at the Peninsula Manila as a recruitment manager. Ampil said Ebarle Jr. suffered gunshot wounds in the chest and arms and died on the spot. His attacker was described by a witness as Caucasian, between 25 and 30 years old, about 5' 8" in height, bald and with a tattoo on his right arm. He drove a blue wagon-type SUV with the diplomatic license plate 20903. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

New 'stimulant' may soon join list of banned drugs

MANILA, Philippines—Benzylpiperazine (BZP) may soon be added to the list of dangerous drugs after tests showed that its users were exposed to the same effects as banned substances like the designer drug Ecstasy. Vicente "Tito" Sotto III revealed that the DDB made the recommendation during a press conference Thursday, following the announcement that he resigned from his post as chair of the agency to run for senator in the 2010 national elections. "I have recommended the inclusion of BZP as prohibited drugs to the DDB after evidence showed that its effects (on users) were comparable to Ecstasy," he said. Sotto also disclosed that a BZP shipment was seized recently by the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) at a warehouse in Quezon City. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

Comelec OKs 4 bets for president, 3 for Senate, nixes 5

By ANNA VALMERO
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—Over 10 aspirants to the presidency and the Senate have so far filed their certificates of candidacy (CoC), but only two for the highest post in the land and three for the upper chamber were accepted by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) at the start of the filing of CoCs Friday.

The poll body approved the CoC for presidency of Rigoberto Madera, who identified himself as a "Messiah" and a member of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan.

Madera, who is nicknamed N.N.N. or Najananan (translated to "messiah"), claimed to be a diamond general and commander-in-chief on earth, filed his CoC at 8:40 a.m. and was the first one to do so.

The second certificate of candidacy for presidency approved by the Comelec belonged to Gilbert Garcia, a quantum physics instructor from Biñan, Laguna.

Comelec also approved the candidacy for presidency filed by Wendell Hanopol Lope, 34, who claimed that he was cheated in the 2004 elections but believed that he could have won.

Then there is also the approved candidacy of Vicente Fabella, 46, who resides in Oriental Mindoro.

Meanwhile, Victorino Inte, 55, a political science graduate from Loboc, Bohol, was the first to file his CoC for senator and was approved.

He was followed by Micomi-i La-Lawquero or "Lotlot," and who claimed to be the National Capital Region's House representative and a majority floor leader from 2007 to 2008. Her CoC for senator, which indicates her residence in Pasay City, was approved after she returned with her complete set of requirements.

Comelec also received the senatorial bid of Eduardo Sion, 67, who claimed to be nominated by Senior Nazareno and hails from Davao City.

Other aspirants for presidency rejected for lack of documents were David Almorong, 70, who claimed to be a retired general of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Lawyer Oliver Lozano, whose bid was likewise rejected by the Comelec because the CoC was filed through a representative, Mel Chavez, in violation of a poll resolution stating that the certificate must be filed by the candidate personally.

The candidacies of Josefino Morillo, a masseuse at West Avenue in Quezon City whose advocacy is education and Noel Aguirre, a former OFW from Jeddah and an advocate against corruption and for economic stability, were likewise dismissed by the poll body for lack of necessary documents.

Comelec offices nationwide will accept the CoCs from prospective national candidates from November 20 to 30 between 8a.m. to 5p.m. and from 8a.m. to 12 midnight of December 1, he said.

Teodoro and Manzano: Game na!

By TJ BURGONIO, CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Teodoro

Manzano

MANILA, Philippines—The Gibo and Edu show got off to a roaring start Thursday, declaring "Game na!" and saying that excellence, not criticism of opponents, will be the key to victory in the May elections.

Wearing a polo shirt with rolled up sleeves and denim jeans, Gilbert "Gibo" Teodoro Jr., 45, who until Monday was defense secretary, was officially proclaimed standard-bearer of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's ruling coalition.

Also proclaimed was his running mate, popular actor and TV host Eduardo "Edu" Manzano, 54, at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City, which was packed with some 3,000 stalwarts of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD coalition.

"Game na," Manzano yelled to rousing applause. It was the familiar cry on his long-running show "Game KNB (Are You Game)?"

"The easiest way to campaign is to criticize," said Teodoro, a Harvard-educated lawyer and bar topnotcher, referring to the opposition candidates he is trailing in popularity surveys.

"Excellence will be the key to our winning our struggle for economic and social liberties," he added.

Teodoro later conceded to reporters that Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III was leading the polls, obviously benefiting from the wave of sentimental support for his late parents—the assassinated Benigno Aquino Jr. and President Corazon Aquino.

The former defense chief invited fellow candidates to debate their respective platforms—clearly heeding the call of concerned Filipinos for an end to the politics of personalities in the upcoming balloting and address issues tearing at the nation's fabric.

Teodoro said there was no surefire way to prop up his ratings.

"The strategy is to try to win the votes of each and every Filipino through a combination of what you have to say, what you have to offer them, and a combination of their trust in you," he said.

"If I were discouraged, how about the person who has to rebuild his life? How about the person who lost everything after working so many years? We will catch up and we will win."

He said that now that he was out of government, "the true Gibo will come out."

Marcos party joins forces with Villar's NP

By KATHERINE EVANGELISTA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—The opposition party Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), led by Ilocos Norte Representative (2nd District) Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr. sealed an alliance with the Nacionalista Party (NP) Friday.

Marcos, only son of the late president Ferdinand Marcos, is eyeing a senatorial seat in 2010.

In a statement, Marcos said that the alliance was formed based on the advocacy of solving the social problems of the Philippines.

"The joining of forces of the two parties is historic. The KBL was formed with a dream for an orderly Philippine society while the NP was formed by our forefathers to strengthen democracy in the Philippines," said Marcos in Filipino.

Marcos' sister Imee, a former congresswoman and KBL secretary-general, said that the upcoming 2010 polls "should no longer involve those who passed away, but should focus on the candidates themselves, according to their qualifications and fitness for public office."

When asked in a chance interview if she was referring to survey top-notcher Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, Imee Marcos said that the statement was not referring to any candidate.

Meanwhile, she said that she expected more candidates and parties to join the NP, saying that it is the "season of frogs."

"There will be more who will join. Politics at this stage is in chaos because there are a lot of frogs who are expected to jump from one party to another," said Ms Marcos.

The NP is led by it's standard bearer Senator Manny Villar.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
November 20, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD WILL HOLD A REGULAR MEETING ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes
    a. September 11, 2009
    b. September 24, 2009
    c. September 26, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  1. Financial Report - CDA
  2. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
  1. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
  2. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
    a. Update on Foreclosed Properties
  3. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
    a. World Corporation d.b.a. World Resort Saipan
V. OLD BUSINESS
VI. NEW BUSINESS
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

U.S. & CNMI IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman & Maya B. Kara

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Call for Appointment

(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.,
Garapan, Saipan

BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

By ALEXANDER VILLAFANIA
INQUIRER.NET

BPI awards exemplary kids of OFWs

MANILA, Philippines—For their exemplary academic and community performance, 10 children of Filipino overseas workers were awarded by the BPI as part of the bank's annual Ten Outstanding Expat Pinoy Children.

The awardees for this year include Kennie Kabeen Alegno, Armando Araneta, Jirah Cortes Armandico, Jezza Boquilon, Jordan Cabandong, Alyanna Cunanan, Daryl Del Rosario, Maris Cay Gabornes, Nikko Jones Servanio, and Lean Angelo Silverio. All of them are college students from different schools.

Some of the awardees are also taking up college courses similar to their parents' profession.

Five of the awardees have parents who are working as seafarers, others are accountants, site operators, or nurses. Each of them will be getting a trophy and a P50,000 BPInoy Savings account.

Some of the parents were also present during the awarding held last November 16 at the BPI main office in Makati City.

The awardees were judged based on their essays, which included their role in the society and school. The essay should also include how their parents inspired them.

This is the third year that the BPI conducted the awards. BPI Senior Vice President and Group Head of Overseas banking and Channel Services Teresita Tan said the goal of the contest is to inspire other children of overseas Filipino workers to excel in their academic and extra-curricular endeavors.

TAKE CHARGE

On giving this Christmas

Question: This time of the year, people are normally excited about the upcoming holiday season. And yet, with all the devastation we experienced due to typhoons in the last few months, I noticed that many of my friends and relatives are saying they can't feel the Christmas spirit yet, and with the many financial burdens, are unlikely to celebrate it like they used to. Is there a way we can have a meaningful yet not so costly Christmas?—Martha

Answer: The Christmas holiday season is upon us, and Martha, even with typhoons and financial worries, there is no postponing it. With many of our countrymen just recovering from the aftermath of destructive typhoons Ondoy, Pepeng and Santi which hit the Philippines successively, it may be that spreading Christmas cheer this year would not be as easy.

There is really no one right way to celebrate Christmas and the holiday season. It does not mean we have to go get the best expensive gifts and serve the best Noche Buena meal we can afford. It does not mean we have to go over the top in decorating our Christmas tree. It does not mean we all have to wear new clothes on Christmas Day. When you come to think of it, Christmas is all about giving—of God giving His Son Jesus Christ to save mankind from sin.

Maybe it is time to rethink the way we regard Christmas—not as an occasion to splurge and give material gifts, but as a season of giving, not just to ourselves and our family, but most especially to others.

This Christmas season, celebrate in a more meaningful way by giving more heart. Here are some ways you can do so:

Instead of just giving material gifts you buy from the stores, give more of yourself by making your own gifts. Your recipients will appreciate more the time and love you pour into making your gifts. Some homemade gifts that can be easily done are baked goodies, cross-stitched napkins, jams and preserves, beaded jewelry, and hand-sewn throw pillow covers, among others. Find something you are good at and go ahead and make them.

Donate to charitable institutions. There are many charities who would welcome any form of donation you can give, be it cash or in kind. Check out orphanages, homes for the elderly, refuge centers for the abused, and other charitable institutions. By donating, you will be able to take part in a bigger effort to help those who are disadvantaged. Short of cash? You can also donate through other means. Citibank credit cards for instance, allow cardholders to use their Rewards Points to make cash donations to key charities. Following Typhoon Ondoy, many cardholders "redeemed" their points for the benefit of the Phil. National Red Cross.

Offer your services. A cute way is to print out coupons which entitle the bearer to a free foot massage, a free dinner you cook yourself, or a free movie date. Your loved ones will enjoy receiving such special meaningful personal service gifts.

Gather your family or close friends and in lieu of having a party together, organize a gift-giving activity at an orphanage or home for the elderly. This will allow everyone to have a face-to-face encounter with other people who are not as privileged as he/she is, and give one an opportunity to make someone happy that day.

Volunteer at your church. Be more than just a spectator on Sundays; find out what your church needs and volunteer for an activity. You may want to consider teaching a Sunday school class, or taking part in a feeding program as an outreach activity. If you are not a churchgoer, volunteer at a non-government organization such as Habitat for Humanity, donate blood to the Red Cross, or sign up to be a poll watcher in the coming 2010 elections.

Help someone you know. Most of us know of someone who was affected by the typhoons. Find out what you can do to help him/her. Maybe they need help in organizing their home, or they need some carpentry work done. Go out of your way and extend a helping hand.

If you must buy gifts, give more thought to the kind of gifts you get. Don't just get generic gifts; personally choose gifts that would suit the recipient and make his/her life better. Make it your aim to give a gift that would uplift and encourage the recipient. Examples would be good books, gift certificates to relaxing massages, and much-needed tools (examples: kitchen utensils for a woman who loves to cook, and a tool set for the man who loves to tinker with cars).

Give the gift of prayer. We all need a little help and giving the gift of prayer will be much appreciated. Ask your family and loved ones for their prayer list and commit to pray for them.

Spend time with the people you love. Too often, we can get so busy that we don't have much time to be with our family and friends. Don't overcrowd your schedule and pencil in more time to be with those important to you. With the holiday season bound to be busy, commit to be there for your child's Christmas program in school, for instance.

Take a mini-retreat. Have some alone time when you can be quiet and reflect on what has happened to you this past year. Use the time to pray and plan your goals for the coming year. Relax and meet the New Year with much anticipation.

Christmas is not all about new toys, new gifts, new clothes. It's about giving time for yourself, your loved ones and other people around you. Plan to have a meaningful and unforgettable Christmas this year!

Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

SA APAT NA TAONG NAKALIPAS, NAPABUTI BA ANG ESTADO NG ATING PAMUMUHAY?

Nang maupo si Ben Fitial bilang gobernador, milyun-milyong halaga ng kontrata ang naibigay sa pamamagitan ng sole-source contracts sa mga kaibigan at supporters ng gobernador. Isinangtabi ang procurement procedures ng CNMI at ipinawalang-bahala ang kahalagahan ng patas na pangangalakal.

SA APAT NA TAONG NAKALIPAS, NAPABUTI BA ANG ESTADO NG ATING PAMUMUHAY?

Nangako si Fitial na hindi niya gagamitin ang perang kinita sa buwis mula sa mga tao o "taxpayer money" sa kanyang pagsampa ng kaso laban sa federalisasyon. Subalit ang nangyari ay tinustusan niya ang kanyang kaso at gumastos siya ng malaking halaga mula sa kaban ng bayan at tinangka pa niyang huwag ipabatid sa ating lahat kung magkano at saan galling ang perang kanyang ginastos.

SA APAT NA TAONG NAKALIPAS, NAPABUTI BA ANG ESTADO NG ATING PAMUMUHAY?

Sinasabing "pro-education policies" ang Gobernador Fitial, pero mas inuna pa niya ang pagpapatayo ng soccer field kaysa sa pagpapagawa ng mga silid aralan. Sinasabing nagtipid si Governor Fitial ng pondo noong nagkaroon ng "Austerity Fridays," subali't marami sa mga "appointees" ng gobernador ang sumusahod ng higit sa "salary cap." Hanggang ngayon, maraming basura at kulang na kulang ang pagkukumpuni ng mga daan.

Sa apat na taon mas naging mahirap tayo at dumami ang krimen lalo na ang nakawan. Tunay na tayo ay nasa "BITTER TIMES!"

APAT NA TAON NA ANG LUMIPAS AT WALANG PAGBABAGO BAGKUS NAGING MAS MAHIRAP AT MASAKLAP PA ANG ATING KINALAGYAN!

IBOTO PO NATIN ANG HOFSCHNEIDER-PALACIOS TEAM NGAYONG NOVEMBER 23, 2009.

FILIPINO-AMERICAN Families for cHAnge.
HOFSCHNEIDER-PALACIOS TEAM:
PAGBABAGO TUNGO SA IKAUUNLAD NG CNMI.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Carla, Geoff seem to be new GMA 7 faves

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—It's either an exercise in saturation or an expression of extreme faith in a star. We're not talking about Marian Rivera.

"Rosalinda" has yet to wrap up, but its stars Carla Abellana and Geoff Eigenmann have been tapped to top-bill the GMA 7 miniseries "SRO Cinemaserye Presents Carinderia Queen."

The two shows now overlap each other since "SRO" premiered last Thursday, while "Rosalinda" will conclude within the month.

Carla hopes viewers will not be confused by the double duty; her bigger concern is that she herself would get perplexed shuttling between the two shows.

"They are completely different," she says of her characters on the two programs. "One is heavy drama; the other, romantic comedy. Rosalinda is lady-like, always crying; Juliet (her "SRO" role) is tomboyish and kinda jologs."

She welcomes the new show because it allows her to act opposite real dad Rey "PJ" Abellana.

Her parents Rey and Rhea Reyes separated when she was a toddler, but he has kept in touch.

Abellana

"It's exciting. I don't know what to expect," she says.

What she should expect are insinuations that her dad is a "stage father" and that they're a "package deal."

"That's not true. I think it's a good decision to get my real dad. In any case, Geoff's mom (Gina Alajar) is also in the cast," she says.

It's one big family affair.

She is aware that both Rey and Gina have publicly declared their approval of her reel- and real-life tandem with Geoff. Even her grandmother, veteran actress Delia Razon, approves of Geoff.

"He's welcome in our house... and I'm glad that Tita Gina also likes me. Tita Gina and I used to only text each other, but now we're working on the same show,'" she notes.

She describes Gina as a "good teacher."

"She gives me tips on the set. She'd tell me to make my delivery of lines more animated, to add little gestures here and there. I value her input," Carla says.

Of course, she constantly voted for Gina during her stint on "Celebrity Duets."

"It's unfortunate that she was eliminated recently. I really felt she deserved to be in the finals because she always gave 100 percent in every performance," says Carla.

Again, the persistent question: Is she and Geoff already a couple?

"We've become closer. Our comfort level [with each other] is higher. But we're not just doing it because of work. We don't only see each other as partners. We regard each other as friends," she asserts.

She also has a third assignment on the Kapuso network, as one of the hosts on the reality talent search "Starstruck."

"I've been preparing for it with hosting gigs, in mall shows and on 'SOP,'" she says.

John Estrada defends himself

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

John Estrada would rather not comment about ex-wife Janice de Belen lambasting him. But well-meaning friends and his fiancee Priscilla Meirelles prodded John to defend himself.

Janice went on a John-bashing during her birthday interview on "Sis." She said John committed adultery and doesn't give child support.

For quite a while there, I thought Janice and John were at least civil with each other. John is appalled, but he understands that it's Janice's prerogative as the mother of their four kids—Inah, 18; Moira, 16; Kaila, 13; and Yuan, 11.

"Never did I retaliate...out of respect for what we shared in the past," he explained. "I see my kids regularly. I support them any way I can, financially and otherwise. I'm not a perfect dad but who is? I don't care what others think. What matters is that my kids and I have a good relationship. Sila pa ang nagsasabi sa akin na pagpasensiyahan ko ang mom nila, baka bad mood lang daw. Kada birthday na lang yata ni Janice, ako ang favorite topic nila sa interview (laughs)." Perhaps Janice is just extra-sensitive these days after her eldest son Igi (with Aga Muhlach) got married unexpectedly. I know that Janice's heart beats primarily for her kids, the same heart that has survived love's many battles. And knowing John, despite his stature in the biz, he remains a simple probinsiyano who never means to hurt anybody. But in show biz, more heart means more hurt. Hopefully, the hearts of Janice and John will stop hurting.

Facebook chum

My fab kumare, Gina Alajar, is one of my fave Facebook contacts. I get a kick reading her status updates and checking out her profile pics (once with Piolo, then with Dingdong, etc. She even jested once that she was engaged to Piolo). But I was shocked to read her recent shoutout: "If I were Jinkee Pacquiao, I would not give up Manny. Krista Ranillo is not at all worth it!"

About Kris...

Less than two weeks after the launch of Kris Aquino's latest TV commercial, a new craze is started—"Gimme 555." Kris premiered the hand gesture in the 555 Tuna ad, where she is shown giving high-fives to mothers to express her approval of the canned-tuna brand.

This made me remember five things about Kris since she used to frequent our place when my mom was still alive.

1) Flowers she sent on my birthday many years ago, with a card that said, "May our friendship continue to blossom until your last birthday." Sad to say, we've drifted apart.

2) The reply she sent to my text saying she looked good in her beer commercial: "We can always re-bond."

3) When she came to the baptism of my son IC, who's her inaanak—and stayed.

4) When she took IC shopping after their shooting of "Pido Dida." She filled IC's van with Troll dolls, his favorites back then.

5) When I guested on her defunct show with Korina and we had a good laugh about the men of our colorful past.

Casualty

Could it be true that ABS-CBN will axe "George & Cecil" because Ryan Agoncillo is now also on GMA 7's "Eat Bulaga"? His Kapamilya sitcom with Juday has been extended for one season, and they are taping till early January. It has been successful in terms of quality and ratings.

Some people have unfairly called Ryan selfish for taking on "EB" hosting chores. That was a decision made out of love and respect for producers TAPE Inc. and MZET, which never fail to celebrate Ryan's birthday in their shows.

SA APAT NA TAONG NAKALIPAS, NAPABUTI BA ANG ESTADO NG ATING PAMUMUHAY?

Noong nahalal bilang Gobernador si Ben Fitial ipinatanggal niya ang CUC "surcharge" na ipinangako niya sa panahon nang siya ay nangungumpanya pa lamang. Subalit ang naging kapalit ay dinoble naman niya ang singil sa tubig at kuryente na halos wala ng matira sa ating mga kapiranggot na kinikita. Ipinatanggal nga niya ang CUC "surcharge" pero naging mas masaklap naman ang kinalabasan ng ating estado o uri ng ating pamumuhay dahil sa mataas na bayarin sa tubig at ilaw.

SA APAT NA TAONG NAKALIPAS, NAPABUTI BA ANG ESTADO NG ATING PAMUMUHAY?

Sa kasalukuyan, kulang tayo ng mga doktor sa CHC na dapat tumitingin sa ating mga kapatid na may mga karamdaman. Dalawang doktor lang ang natitira sa ER. Nasa humigit kumulang ng $161 milyon ang "uncollected revenues" ng CHC. Kadalasan mahaba ang pila, kulang sa mga gamit at gamot. Ni walang sapat na imbak ng dugo. Hanggang ngayon hindi pa rin mabuksan-buksan ang $22 milyon na dialysis center. Ginastusan ng malaking halaga, sana hindi lamang ito masayang at mabulok.

SA APAT NA TAONG NAKALIPAS, NAPABUTI BA ANG ESTADO NG ATING PAMUMUHAY?

Matatandaan natin na noong taong 2006 at 2007 ipinatigil ng administrasyong Fitial ang pagbibigay kontribusiyon ng mga kawani ng gobeyerno sa Retirement Fund. Sa hatol ni Judge Kenneth Govendo, ito ay hindi makatarungan at labag sa konstitusyon kung kaya't inatasan niyang magbayad ang administrasyong Fitial ng $231 milyon noong June, 2009. Kung walang kasong isinampa laban sa administrasyong Fitial tungkol ng Retirement Fund, malamang tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang katiwaliang ito at patuloy na nahihirapan ang ating mga retiradong manggagawa. Nakakabahala na ang kanilang pinaghirapang perang inilagak sa Retirement Fund ay hindi pa nila pakikinabangan lalo na ngayong panahon ng krisis.

APAT NA TAON NA ANG LUMIPAS AT WALANG PAGBABAGO BAGKUS NAGING MAS MAHIRAP AT MASAKLAP PA ANG ATING KINALAGYAN!

IBOTO PO NATIN SILA
HOFSCHNEIDER-PALACIOS
NGAYONG NOVEMBER 23, 2009
PAGKA'T SI HEINZ AT ARNOLD LAMANG ANG MAGDADALA NG PAGBABAGO TUNGO SA IKAUUNLAD NG CNMI AT ESTADO NG ATING PAMUMUHAY.

MRS. FE CALIXTERIO
RETIRED EDUCATOR AND COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER

Maharlika – Opinyon

Dear Hillary

Not that you are likely to read this, though it can't hurt to read something a little more intelligent than the usual crap given you that passes for intelligence. I write to reiterate some of the points I made in a previous letter I wrote your boss a couple of months ago. I wrote it in the hope that people who have the audacity to hope would also have the audacity to listen.

I was one of those who rejoiced at your party's victory a year ago (has it been that long?), a victory that had "We shall overcome" written all over it. I was one of those who believed that victory did not just represent a victory for Americans but a victory for the world. The first world president, the signs blared in neon, and I thrilled to see it. What a difference a year makes. The lights have not gone out completely but how so much dimmer they've become.

I personally rooted for Barack Obama over you in the primaries, even if it meant nothing to you or your country. Not least because of your endorsement of the Iraq invasion—let's call a spade a spade, although occupation, seizure or grabbing is a lot more accurate—which your rival, who eventually became your country's first black president, had a field day twitting you with. Your excuse that it was a bipartisan vote and that you got the wrong intelligence from George W. and his bunch of cutthroats just doesn't cut it. All it proves is that your intelligence is crap, and you would be better off reading more intelligent things like this.

Still, I had hoped that your becoming state secretary would add fuel to a US government that seemed to want to go boldly where no US government had gone before. I had hoped you would help present the other face of America to the world, the face of Thomas Jefferson, Mark Twain and Martin Luther King and not the faces of Randolph Hearst, Richard Nixon and Fox News. At the very least I had hoped you, upon the frenzied instigation of your boss, would do no less, if not much more, than Jimmy Carter in pressing the cause of liberty before the world.

There's The Rub
By CONRADO DE QUIROS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

I hoped wrong.

Your coming to the Philippines does not press that cause before the Filipinos, it suppresses it. It cannot help that you pass off your trip here—trumpeted loudly by your ambassador—as a desire to personally see the devastation wrought by the recent typhoons. I know we are a country that has earned worldwide renown only for boxing and stealing, but we have not entirely lost our wits. When two top American officials visit this country one on top of the other—the other one was CIA director Leon Panetta who visited last June—we have to ask what we have done to deserve the honor.

Being flattened by howling wind and raging flood is not the first thing that comes to mind. The American capacity for solicitousness has nowhere been in evidence in this country. What has been in evidence throughout the years is a "special relations" that gives whole new meanings to the word "special." It improves on Sun-Tzu's famous aphorism, "Keep your friends close and your enemies even closer," by proposing, "Make your enemies pay dear and your friends even dearer."

To suggest that you are coming here out of concern for our ravaged state only makes you out to be afflicted by the same disease as your host, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The activists are right: You want to see a spectacle of devastation, look elsewhere. The burying of whole villages in water and the ruining of whole crops at harvest time are nothing compared to the wasteland this country has been turned into by two things.

The first is your host. It cannot speak very highly of a transformational government that you want only to transform someone who has been the greatest bane her countrymen has known after Ferdinand Marcos into a blessing for democracy. The last by saying, as Obama did when she visited, and as various US officials like yourself have said when she has complied, or gone overboard, with the American wishes, that she is a mighty ally in the fight against terrorism.

Mighty ally, my foot. No one has wreaked more terror upon this land than she, though that is clearly of little concern to you. Sort of reminds us of how George's father, Bush Senior, toasted Marcos for his adherence to democracy during his time. The only transformation that seems to have happened is the superficial one of color in the American leadership, from white to black. For us at least, it remains as black (-and-white) as before.

And for what? Just so you can continue to have your will with us. Spare us the nurturing posture, it merely adds insult to the injury. And it makes you look like Kristie Kenney, your one ambassador who has learned the art of humoring the natives. You are here, as Panetta was here, as all sorts of American officials high and low will be here, because you are anxious to remain here. Or because you are anxious to have your bases remain here. Yes, bases. They may be mobile, they may be itinerant, they may be floating, crawling, or traipsing, but they are bases nonetheless. Before the storms became permanent visitors in this country, you already were.

You want to see devastation, gaze upon the devastation you have wrought. Upon a people who have done you no harm, who came to your side, notwithstanding that you enslaved them at the very time of their lives they were near to being free, when you lay prostrate at the hands of the Japanese. Gaze upon the way you repaid them by propping up their oppressors in the name of fighting communism and now of terrorism. The point of fighting communism and terrorism is to protect democracy. It is not to create more communists and terrorists by the sheer hellishness of it.

You shall overcome?

Right now, the only thing you need to overcome is yourselves.

EDITORIAL

Crowning glory

Aficionados call boxing the "sweet science," but it is neither sweet nor scientific. What it is is an unforgiving sport, and often a brutal one; last Saturday we got another shocking reminder of the sometimes casual cruelty of boxing. Up-and-coming Filipino boxer Z Gorres wound up in a medically induced coma done to relieve a swelling in his brain; he had collapsed immediately after winning a steppingstone bout in Las Vegas. His situation, as of press time, remains critical.

The day after Gorres' nightmare began, Manny Pacquiao reminded us with his fearless, masterly victory over welterweight champion Miguel Cotto why he is now the undisputed best boxer in the world, at any weight: He makes boxing look easy. He does not only satisfy his countryman's appetite for ungrudging respect; he does not only answer the need of the sports fan for graceful, explosive athleticism, for sheer physical excellence; he also pleases the spectator's naive fantasy that the violence in the ring, like violence seen on screen, carries no serious consequences.

It does, of course. All we have to do is remember Gorres' fate; or contemplate the damage Parkinson's has visited on the most celebrated boxer of all time, Muhammad Ali; or listen to Freddie Roach, the coach who charted Pacquiao's rise to global superstardom, when he advised his ward, whom he has taken to calling "son," to fight only one or two more times, and then quit. He has nothing more to prove, the cerebral Roach has said. (That Roach himself has Parkinson's, like Ali's the curse of a career spent fighting and absorbing punishment in the ring, adds more weight to his advice.)

The Filipino fan basking in the lasting sunlight of Pacquiao's impressive, history-setting victory will find it hard to listen to, much less hear, Roach's advice. But Roach is right; Pacquiao has nothing more to prove. Yes, there is a multimillion-dollar bout waiting for him, against former pound-for-pound king Floyd Mayweather Jr. But if the fight everyone wants to see does not push through, it will be Mayweather's loss. Pacquiao has beaten all the other Hall of Fame-bound rivals of his era; he has graduated beyond the pound-for-pound rankings. He is, as Roach has said, already on the list of boxing's all-time greats.

He has nothing more to prove. Perhaps a couple of more fights, to tie up loose ends, to cement his fearsome reputation, to push boxing back into the mainstream. In the *Time* cover story, Pacquiao kept asserting a mantra of sorts. "Di ako bobo," he said again and again: I am not stupid.

He has certainly proven that, both inside the ring, with his tenacious training discipline and sense of ring strategy, and outside it, in choosing the right opponents at the right time, in taking care to grow and protect his hard-earned fortune. But the curse of boxing afflicts even the greatest of boxers: Not knowing when to hang up one's gloves. As a result, from Ali on down, we have seen great fighters fight way past their prime—to recapture past glory, or to recover lost fortune, or to lay old ghosts or demons to rest.

Quitting at the peak of his career: This, then, would be the acid test of Pacquiao's obvious intelligence.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Secrets in a dead man's possessions

Attention to detail is one of the strengths of my work, but some people disagree. They want my research and writing to cover the complete story of the nation. They want me to write about the forest when I am more fascinated by the trees. What did Rizal eat for breakfast? Did Bonifacio dream in color? When I come up with answers, some people marvel at the "painstaking" research, while others dismiss them as "trivial" or "chismis."

Our hunt for such "clues" or "traces" in history is like Robert Langdon finding hidden meanings in signs and symbols. We are like investigators on "CSI" unmasking a killer from the way a corpse is found.

Historians do not have exciting lives. Our investigations begin from stacks of books in a library or the musty documents in archives.

The closest I have come to a "CSI" method was going over the manner Rizal fell in Bagumbayan and contemplating his backbone in Fort Santiago. I have pored through the autopsy report and photographs of bones found in the Maragondon range that were allegedly those of Andres Bonifacio. I have read the medical report on Apolinario Mabini's disability and was rewarded with a lock of his hair. Then there was the much publicized pre-war operation on Emilio Aguinaldo who was admitted to a government hospital for an appendectomy. He complained of discomfort after the "successful" operation.

Looking Back
By AMBETH OCAMPO
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Non-invasive probing equipment was unavailable then, so they opened him up again and discovered that one of the surgeons had left a towel inside the President of the First Republic. When I asked a doctor if this was sufficient cause for a malpractice suit, he replied defensively, "Don't be silly Ambeth, it's only a towel. It could have been worse. Imagine if they had left a scalpel!"

Morbid souvenirs of Aguinaldo's ordeal are displayed in the medicine cabinet of his home in Kawit, Cavite. Often overlooked in a profusion of blue bottles that once contained eye drops are two small bottles, one containing Aguinaldo's pickled appendix and the other a piece of cotton gauze cut from the towel left by his doctors.

In the mass of documents once known as the "P.I.R." (Philippine Insurgent Records), now preserved in the National Library, are papers relating to the assassination of Gen. Antonio Luna in Cabanatuan in 1899. Luna is often referred to as "the greatest Filipino general of the Philippine-American War" despite the research and writing of the late Teodoro Agoncillo who insisted that Luna was a great general who did not win a single battle. Luna was allegedly summoned to Cabanatuan for a meeting with Aguinaldo, but when he got there he was shot and stabbed—by Cavite soldiers serving as presidential guards, the same rowdy soldiers he had vainly tried to discipline for insubordination.

Often overlooked by historians is the inventory of Luna's bags after the assassination. Unfortunately, these do not give us any clues as to the reason for his murder, but the objects listed give us an idea into his personality.

We presume the inventory is complete and correct. He had two traveling bags, two bauls (chests) and a box with an assortment of personal effects as follows:

"One leather traveling bag with toiletry case, one elastic sash, one alcohol lamp, curling irons, one packet Boric acid, one packet rice powder, two small boxes shoe polish, one shoe brush, one soap dish with soap, one pair spurs."

Remember there were no hotels as we know them today. Luna would spend nights in the field or enjoyed the hospitality of homes with or without amenities, so he brought his own soap and shoe polish. The curling irons, depending on the size, could have been for his hair, or his famous handle-bar moustache. Rice powder reduced the sheen on the face. I don't know what the Boric acid was for.

A canvas traveling bag contained: "one pair charol half boots, one pair hazel-nut-colored leather buskins, one pair leather boots, one pair high canvas buskins, one astrolabe."

"A baul with one black frock coat, one mirror de tres lunas, two white tunics, white pants, one blue wool band, one Ilocano bedspread, two bath towels, one pair unused slippers, one empty leather portfolio, one metal box with coat buttons, 32 small boxes cartridges, five cane fans, one general's cap, one English straw hat, one Baliuag hat.

"One baul containing: one thick raincoat, one pair guignon pants with sashes, three striped Cuban pants, five calzoncillos, two khaki pants, five shirt collars, two cotton shirts, two pillow cases, one big towel, three colored handkerchiefs, six books and shoulder pads.

"One box with six books, four canes, one saber, two American bayonets, one pair hazel-colored buskins, one Japanese bath robe, two boxes with 20 handkerchiefs, six khaki mambisas [?], two khaki pants, one pair pantaloon de montar [?], one wool suit, one wool americana, wool pants, eight white pants, seven white americanas, 17 shirt collars, 12 shirts, five pillow cases, two camisas de chino, two wool socks and a kalasiao hat."

Twelve shirts but only five pieces of underwear? Twelve books, but no titles? Curling irons and unused slippers? You will be surprised what historical secrets a dead man's inventory will yield.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

FIESTA DONATION

Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan officials and staff present another check in the amount of $469 to the CHC Volunteers Association. The amount was collected from the healthy lunch donations in October. This money was donated by guests who continually patronize the Chambre Bar and will be used toward buying a hyperbaric chamber for the hospital.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PROFESSIONAL CODERS

The Guam-CNMI Chapter of the American Academy of Professional Coders recently held a chapter meeting and a Call for 2010 nomination of officers. The 2009 Chapter Officers in this photo are, standing from left, Jocelyn Kahiwa Aki, CPC (Education Officer); Maria Teresa M. Bondoc, CPC (Secretary); Concepcion R. Nazareno, CPC (Treasurer); seated from left, Walfredo L. Santos, CPC, CPC-H (President) and Esther L. Muna, CPC (President-Elect). Not in this picture are Ma. Theresa Arcanghel, CPC, CPC-H (Member Development). The AAPC is an organization that elevates the standards of medical coding by providing certification, ongoing education, networking, and recognition to its members. More information can be obtained by visiting www.aapc.com.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Northern Marianas Badminton Association president Shirley Kim celebrated her birthday last Wednesday at the Canton Restaurant in Garapan. Kim celebrated it with family, friends, and members of the badminton group.

PACQUIAO MANIA

Traveler's Lodge tenants and friends watch the Pacquiao-Cotto WBO Championship fight in Las Vegas last Sunday. Everybody enjoyed watching the fight, especially when Pacquiao knocked down Cotto once in the third and fourth rounds and finally when the referee stopped the fight in the 12th round. Biba Pacquiao!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Emelsha Aldan Cepeda, who will be celebrating her 8th birthday on Sunday, Nov. 22, 2009. Happy birthday Melshy, many blessings and lots and lots of hugs and kisses. Love, Dad, Mom, and sisters Elyssha, Edinna, and the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

UOL TEAM & MUSE

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Muse Doll Carranza poses with University of Loyola players, from left, Ferdie De La Torre, James Abuy, Rick Brien, and Jun "Smoking Gun" Tabora during the opening last Saturday of the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League. Brien served as Carranza's escort.

KNOCKED OUT

Tired from the whole-day coverage, Magic 100 FM deejay Jimmy B takes a short nap during a break in the counting of the ballots for the general election in the early morning hours of Nov. 8.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-017

Construction of Marpi Public Cemetery

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Marpi Public Cemetery, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at the Governor's Office of Capital Improvement, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Office of the Governor, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed and must be paid to the CNMI Treasurer. A proof of receipt for the project package is required. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospect bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on December 16, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Banzai Cliff Road, Marpi adjacent to the Veteran Cemetery. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December 17, 2009 to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, Office of the Capitol Improvement, 1st Floor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-017"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, December 28, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time December 28, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 28, 2009 and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. January 07, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, January 08, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on December 29, 2009.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury Listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is two hundred seventy (270) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars ($500.00.), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by two hundred seventy (270) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

YoungStyle

There's hope and help for overweight kids

By JENNIFER LARUE HUGET
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Dealing with kids' weight is one of the most delicate dances of parenthood.

We want to make sure our children are well nourished and have a healthy, positive relationship with food. We don't want to damage their self-esteem by calling undue attention to their weight (whether they're thin or chubby), and we don't want to alienate them by constantly reminding them to slow down on snacks and get their butts off the couch. When your child is overweight, it's hard to find words to voice your concerns, words that won't push the child toward even worse eating and exercise habits, and away from you.

Finding a way to help kids deal with their excess weight has never been so crucial. The federal National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey estimates that about a third of all children and teens are overweight; 16 percent are obese. Recent research has connected being obese as a teen-age girl with dramatically increased risk of developing multiple sclerosis as an adult. Obese teen girls, also according to recent research, are more likely to suffer infertility as adults. Overweight teens of both sexes are at increased risk of Type 2 diabetes, a disease once reserved for older adults. And overweight adolescents too often turn into overweight adults. Though some experts may dispute that being overweight translates to ill health, numerous studies have shown associations between being overweight and such conditions as cardiovascular disease and many cancers.

Sometimes it seems the world has conspired to make our kids fat. Ads for highly sweetened, fat-laden treats bombard them through television and computer screens. In many communities, playing outside and walking or biking to and from school is no longer the norm. Physical education has been squeezed out of schools, where the food served at lunch is often a nutritional disappointment.

If all that sounds dire, though, rising public awareness of childhood obesity as a major threat to our nation's future health has led to new initiatives to address the issue. The American Academy of Pediatrics, for instance, offers a Web site, www.aap.org/obesity/about.html, dedicated to youth overweight and obesity. The National Dairy Council and the National Football League have teamed up on the "Fuel Up to Play 60" initiative (www.fueluptoplay60.com/

index(underscore)flash.php), aimed at getting kids to "make healthy changes." And the William J. Clinton Foundation and the American Heart Association four years ago joined forces to create, through their Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a program called EmpowerME (www.empowerme2b.org), designed to help young people take control of managing their own weight.

Kim Perry, the program's director, says, "It's a movement of young people who believe in prevention, in eating right and moving around more." EmpowerME's online offerings are focused on two age groups: 8 to 12 year olds are the prime target, with 13 to 17 year olds treated as "influencers" whose behaviors set examples for the younger set.

The program encourages kids to get 60 minutes of physical activity every day (not necessarily all at once, Perry notes); to make water, milk and 100 percent fruit juices their primary beverages; to eat fruit or vegetables at every meal; to limit total screen time (watching TV, using the computer or playing video games) to one to two hours a day; and to get nine hours of sleep every night. The Web site offers tons of tips and tools for meeting those goals.

Eventually, participants learn how to become advocates in their homes, schools and communities, looking for ways to increase access to healthful food and make outdoor play safe and available.

Dawson MacKay of Bethesda, Md., had already lost weight by the time he joined EmpowerME.

"I was a little overweight in third grade," he says. "My parents are both doctors, and they informed me. They tried to be nice to me. They told me I was overweight and that that wasn't good, so I should try to eat better and eat less and start exercising more."

Dawson says he took their advice in stride. "They talk to me a lot about health, and they're usually right," he says. Losing weight "wasn't too hard," he says, "but I had to get out of my regular routine."

How to help your overweight child

Special to The Washington Post

Marc Jacobson, who practices pediatric and adolescent medicine in Great Neck, N.Y., and is a spokesman for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), acknowledges the challenges parents face in helping their kids maintain a healthful weight.

"Parents have to think about this before their kids become teen-agers," Jacobson says. "They should engage in an active lifestyle as a family so it becomes a habit." But, he allows, "Thinking ahead is very hard. As a country, we don't do it so well."

Here are some ideas for helping your child get a handle on his or her weight:

■ Encourage them to find a physical activity they enjoy, one that doesn't depend on their joining a team. Dancing is a great example, Jacobson says. "Kids like it, and they don't think of it as exercise."

■ Make small changes that add up to extra movement. Park in the space farthest from the mall entrance. Take stairs instead of the elevator.

■ Involve everybody in the family, no matter what their size and shape. "Don't focus on the one kid who currently is overweight," he suggests.

■ "Try not to discuss weight or shape," he says. "Instead, talk about healthy, active living."

■ Follow the AAP-recommended "5-2-1-0" formula: 5 servings of fruit/vegetables per day, less than 2 hours of screen time, 1 hour of physical activity and no sweetened beverages. Recent research shows that girls who drank two or more sweetened beverages daily at age 5 were more likely to be overweight at age 15 than girls who drank less.

What's in a number?

By FRED BOWEN
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Basketball superstar LeBron James announced last week that he wants the National Basketball Association to retire the number 23 to honor Hall of Fame basketball star Michael Jordan.

James, who wears number 23 for the Cleveland Cavaliers, said: "I just think what Michael Jordan has done for the game has to be recognized in some way—soon. There would be no LeBron James, no Kobe Bryant, no Dwyane Wade without Michael Jordan."

I don't agree with James. Jordan was a great basketball player. He led the league in scoring 10 times and won six NBA championships for the Chicago Bulls. It's fine that the Bulls retired Jordan's number. But I don't think the entire NBA should retire the number 23.

Major League Baseball retired the number 42 in 1997 to honor Jackie Robinson. But that's different. Robinson was more than just a terrific baseball player. As the first African-American to play in the major leagues, Robinson was a brave pioneer who helped make this country become a better place. Jordan has never done anything like that.

And if you retire the number 23, where would you stop? LeBron says he would be willing to wear the number 6, the number he wore for the U.S. Olympic team.

Wait a minute: That's Bill Russell's number. Russell was a center who led the Boston Celtics to 11 NBA championships during his 13-year playing career. He's a bigger winner than even Jordan. Russell revolutionized the game with his ability to rebound and block shots.

If he's not superstitious, maybe James should subtract 10 from 23 and wear the number 13. Sorry, that's Wilt Chamberlain's number. Chamberlain, who once scored 100 points in an NBA game and averaged more than 50 points a game for an entire season, was one of the most unstoppable players in the history of the game.

Maybe James could add 10 to his 23 and wear number 33 or switch the numbers on his jersey and wear number 32.

Those numbers belong to Larry Bird of the Boston Celtics and Magic Johnson of the Los Angeles Lakers. Their passing and all-around hoop skills made basketball and the NBA popular in the 1980s.

You see, there are lots of great players who have contributed to the game of basketball, not just Jordan. I haven't mentioned such all-time greats as Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (also number 33), Oscar Robertson (numbers 14 and 1) or Jerry West (number 44).

So my advice to LeBron James is to wear number 23. Play the best you can, and someday when fans think of the number 23 they will remember you instead of Michael Jordan.

Bowen is the author of such kids' books as "Touchdown Trouble" and "Soccer Team Upset."

Why do you have a bellybutton?

By HOWARD BENNETT
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Whether they have an innie or an outie, most people take their bellybutton for granted. After all, what's it good for except trapping lint, sweat and other icky stuff? Well, that may be true now, but the next time you look at your bellybutton, remember that it once played a very important role in your life.

Before you were born, you spent nine months growing in your mother's body. Little kids think babies grow in their mom's stomach, but if that were true, babies would be digested like a piece of cheese! In reality, babies grow inside a special organ that women have called the uterus. (Babies are called fetuses before they are born.)

During the pregnancy, fetuses can't eat or breathe in the traditional sense. They do need oxygen and nutrients, however, and the uterus is designed to provide them. Soon after the fetus attaches to the inside of its mom's uterus, something called the placenta begins to grow. A short time later, the fetus begins to develop the umbilical cord that will attach to the placenta.

The umbilical cord is made of a tough, jelly-like material called Wharton's jelly. Lying within the cord are three blood vessels: two arteries and one vein. At the time of birth, the umbilical cord is about 20 inches long and 3/4-inch thick.

The umbilical cord is a biological highway that allows the fetus to grow. Oxygen-rich blood and nutrients travel from the mother's body into the fetus. Oxygen-poor blood and waste products travel from the fetus back to the mom's body. The mom gets rid of the baby's waste through her lungs and kidneys.

After a baby is born, he is still attached to his mom's placenta via the umbilical cord. Blood will continue to travel back and forth for a few minutes after birth. In some cultures, the blood is allowed to stop flowing on its own, after which the cord is tied off. In other cultures, the obstetrician or midwife will attach a plastic clamp to the cord to interrupt the blood supply between mom and baby. Once the clamp is applied, the cord is cut.

The umbilical clamp is left in place for about 24 hours, then the nurse removes it. The baby is now left with something referred to as an umbilical stump, a brownish lump made up of dried-out Wharton's jelly and its contents. In most cases, the stump falls off in a week or so.

The grown-up name for the "defect" that's left on the baby's abdomen after the umbilical stump falls off is the navel. But to you, it's known as the bellybutton. And a cute one at that!

Bennett is a Washington pediatrician and author of health-related books for kids.

A RHYMING RIDDLE!

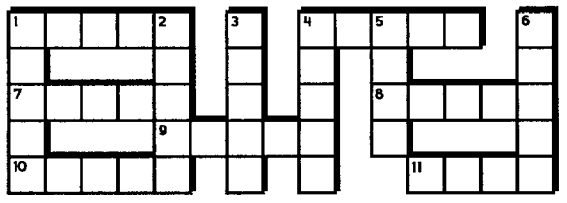
Four jolly men sat down to play.
And played all night till the break of day;
They played for cash and not for fun,
With separate scores for everyone.
Yet when they came to square accounts,
They all had made quite fair amounts.
Can you this paradox explain?
If no one lost, how could all gain?

CAN YOU FIGURE OUT how all four made money?

Answer: The four "players" were musicians in a dance band, not "card players." Did the picture throw you off?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend



HERE'S A "TAME" PUZZLE!

To the left is a crossword puzzle grid. Below are the names of 13 tame and not-so-tame animals that you'll need to complete the puzzle grid. Use the trial-and-error method.

4-Letter Words	5-Letter Words	5-Letter Words
Fawn	Bison	Lambs
Puma	Camel	Lions
	Chimp	Mamba
	Crabs	Mules
	Hippo	Seals
	Horse	

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answers: (Across) 1. Crabs. 4. Hippo. 7. Mamba. 8. Mules. 9. Lambs. 10. Lions. 11. Fawn. (Down) 1. Camel. 2. Seals. 3. Chimp. 4. Horse. 5. Puma. 6. Bison.

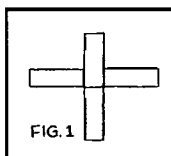


FIG. 1

A "SQUARE WAGER"!
Bet your friends that you can form a square by moving only one of the sticks in Fig. 1. The answer is to move the middle stick "up," thus forming a small square in the middle (Fig. 2).

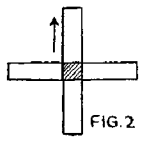
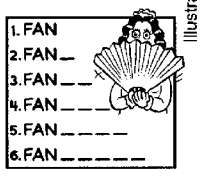


FIG. 2

Illustrated by David Coulson

ATTENTION ALL WORD FANS! In this puzzle, all of the words get progressively longer, and they all start with FAN. Some hints:

1. Keeps you cool.
2. Type of tooth.
3. To like.
4. Type of airplane.
5. Loud trumpet flourish.
6. Animated Spanish dance.



Answers: 1. Fan. 2. Fang. 3. Fancy. 4. Fanjet. 5. Fanfare. 6. Fandango.

Cat can't stop licking woodwork

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I have two cats, 11 and 12 years old. The older one, "Poppy," has had some stomach problems. She licks the woodwork and then will upchuck—not all the time, but often. Why is she doing this? Is she missing something in her diet?—Sherri, via e-mail

DEAR SHERRI: While cats do "upchuck" from time to time—sometimes coughing up a hairball, and sometimes vomiting outright—when you notice a pattern such as Poppy's licking the woodwork and then becoming sick afterward, take action to prevent it.

I don't think the reason Poppy is licking the woodwork is because she's missing something from her diet. Rather, I think that something in the wood has an attractive taste or odor and Poppy is licking it, thinking it's something good.

That isn't a good thing, as that "something" may be a chemical either in the wood or in the paint or varnish that covers the wood. Poppy probably gets sick after licking the woodwork because her body is reacting to something toxic.

You should prevent Poppy from getting at the woodwork. Mark the spots that Poppy regularly licks and spray the area with a cat repellent, available at pet stores. You also can set up a physical barrier between Poppy and her favorite spots, such as a piece of furniture or, worst-case scenario, tape. (Start with blue painter's tape, which will do the least damage to the wood finish.) If you catch Poppy licking a spot, shake a small can of pennies at her—the noise will startle her and, if repeated every time she's caught in the act, may eventually dissuade her from licking.

Last, but most important, mention the wood-licking to Poppy's vet at her next check-up. If there is a nutritional deficiency or a health issue, the vet is best equipped to identify it.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Serbian electrical engineer and inventor Nikola Tesla who made the following sage observation: "One must be sane to think clearly, but one can think deeply and be quite insane."

■ You may be surprised to learn that in 1980, the mayor of Detroit gave the key to the city to Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein.

■ If you're planning a trip to Minnesota anytime soon, you might want to stop in the town of Pipestone to see its claim to roadside-attraction fame: a 30-foot-long peace pipe.

■ If you think postage rates are getting high now, consider this: To send mail by Pony Express originally cost $5 per ounce—and that was when a dollar was worth a whole lot more than it is today.

■ The World Health Organization does not include cockroaches on its list of insects hazardous to human health.

■ It was in 2006 at a Christian youth conference in Atlanta that the world's largest recorded pillow fight took place, with some 10,000 teenagers taking part in the festivities.

■ American author Ken Kesey is best known for his novel "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," which is set in a veterans' hospital. He got the inspiration for the novel from work he did with patients while working the night shift at Menlo Park Veterans Hospital—a job from which he was later fired.

■ If you're ever vacationing in Denmark's capital city, you might want to keep in mind this unusual statute: It is against the law in Copenhagen for an unmarried couple wearing bathing suits to kiss on the beach.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I like an escalator because an escalator can never break, it can only become stairs. There would never be an escalator temporarily out of order sign, only an escalator temporarily stairs. Sorry for the convenience."—Mitch Hedberg

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● CUT —

D	S	P	M	J	H	E	B	Y	E	V	T	Q	O	L
I	G	D	B	E	Y	S	W	T	T	R	P	M	D	K
I	F	D	B	Y	S	S	S	E	C	I	R	P	R	W
U	S	Q	O	A	M	A	K	O	O	I	F	D	A	B
Z	X	W	L	U	P	L	H	S	R	Q	O	N	T	N
K	L	C	J	D	H	G	N	C	N	C	D	F	S	D
C	C	A	N	Y	W	V	T	U	E	D	A	S	U	Q
P	N	A	N	L	H	G	U	O	R	H	T	F	M	K
I	H	F	B	W	E	C	B	I	S	D	T	F	E	Z
Y	W	V	U	S	O	R	E	Q	P	U	N	O	H	N
M	L	J	I	H	F	D	T	R	O	H	S	A	T	E

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Across	Back	Glass	The mustard
And dried	Class	Off	Through
And paste	Corners	Out	To the chase
And run	Down	Prices	

©2009 King Features, Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

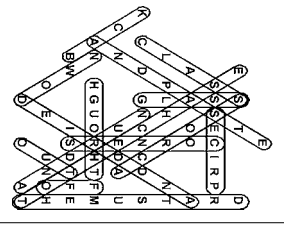
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		–		17
+		+		–	
	–		x		10
÷		x		x	
	–		x		16
5		11		16	

1 3 4 5 6 7 7 8 9

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



CUT —

GO FIGURE ANSWER

	16		11		5
16	8	x	1	–	3
	x		x		÷
10	5	x	7	–	9
	–		+		+
17	7	–	4	x	6

Kid-friendly holiday countdown calendar

Before your holiday to-do list gets the best of you, here's a pre-season "get organized" project the whole family can do together. Not only will you get a handle on the approaching flurry of activity, but you'll have fun with your kids as you anticipate daily events leading up to Christmas.

In the next day or two, get together as an entire family and talk about the activities everyone would like to do in December. Consider the basics, such as attending the Christmas concert at church, wrapping gifts to mail to out-of-town relatives and friends, delivering Cub Scout wreaths and so on until the 25th.

Share traditions your family has enjoyed yearly, too, and include favorites everyone would like this year. When my kids were young, they made a tradition of spreading out their sleeping bags by the Christmas tree after we decorated it, where they slept all night long.

Once your list is complete (be sure to keep it manageable), mark the activities on your personal calendar. Then the kids can make a paper cutout garland—one cutout for each day until Christmas.

To make the garland, cut apart brown paper bags to make two large pieces of paper. Fold each piece across the top, forming a double layer large enough to fit a gingerbread-shaped cookie cutter. Place the cookie cutter on the paper with the top of its head on the fold. Trace around the shape and continue until you have made 25 figures. Cut out the figures, being careful not to cut through the fold.

Let the kids color features on the shapes. Number from 1 to 25, then open them up and print on the inside the activity that corresponds with the day on the front. Lay 2 1/2 yards of wide holiday ribbon on your work surface and slip each figure over the ribbon, beginning with figure 1. Glue the backside of the ribbon to the figures to keep them in place. Then put a dot of glue on the inside bottom of each figure and pinch it shut. Hang the countdown line across your mantel or a large window. Each morning until Christmas, let the children open the gingerbread person for the day to remind everyone of the activity inside.

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: Bake a batch of gingerbread cookies together. Decorate and share with neighbors and friends.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

Heidi Klum wows crowd at Victoria's Secret show

NEW YORK (AP)—Heidi Klum and her post-baby body led the parade at the annual Victoria's Secret fashion show, which returned to New York with some fresh faces after four years on the road.

The lingerie retailer inducted five more women into its "Angel" ranks—a designation reserved for top models—in front of a packed house Thursday night at the Lexington Avenue Armory. They are Emanuela de Paula, Chanel Iman, Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, Lindsay Ellingson and Candice Swanepoel.

But Klum, who gave birth to a daughter five weeks ago, was the audience favorite in her purple corset covered with a half gown with poufs of tulle. She emerged from the huge, castlelike set to applause.

Musical guest The Black Eyed Peas—especially Fergie, its only female member, who wore a black, jeweled bodysuit—was another crowd-pleaser. Fergie came out later in a green corset gown.

Of course, fashion really is secondary here. Victoria's Secret always puts on an elaborate production (this time with a choir, acrobatic dancers and a giant polka-dot dog balloon) and fuels hype about its models. An online model search started earlier this month and is now down to two contestants, one of whom will be chosen by the public to appear in the televised version of the fashion show that CBS will air Dec. 1.

"I could watch this online, but it's a fun scene," said Russell Simmons from his front row seat. "This show is always fun and a great production."

"It's always a spectacular," agreed costume designer Patricia Field. "Victoria's Secret does that extra thing I like."

Klum, who normally wears the most elaborate outfits, only appeared once, so it was former Sports Illustrated Swimsuit cover girl Marissa Miller who had the honor of wearing a $3 million, diamond-encrusted bra.

Splashy jewels, it seemed, were one of the themes of the show with many models dripping in diamonds, crystals and other bling. Others wore faux fur stoles over their bras and panties. Thigh-high boots were the other must-have accessory.

Outfits fell into one of four themes: Star Trooper with breast plates and body armor; Pink Planet, which had a hippie vibe; the ethereal Enchanted Forest; and Romantic Journey that featured a lot of lace.

Compared to previous years, the overall collection didn't seem as skimpy, although Miranda Kerr wore an itsy-bitsy black thong get-up that might have to be edited out of the TV show.

AP

Heidi Klum walks the runway during the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show at the Lexington Armory, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, in New York.

Bullock in New Orleans for 'Blind Side' showing

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Wearing a floor-length pastel striped evening gown, Sandra Bullock walked the red carpet in New Orleans Thursday for a special premiere of her latest film, "The Blind Side."

Besides promoting the sports drama, which opens in theaters nationwide on Friday, the event also served as a fundraiser for a New Orleans high school flooded by Hurricane Katrina.

Since the 2005 storm, Bullock has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to Warren Easton High School, one of the city's oldest public schools, which took on 10 feet of water when the levee protection system broke during Katrina.

The donations have been used for renovations, scholarships, new band uniforms and a new health clinic.

"We're investing in a lot of things that we think need preserving," said Bullock, who recently bought a mansion in New Orleans' historic Garden District. "I'm a great supporter of New Orleans and its architecture."

Bullock signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans before taking her walk down the red carpet outside the Prytania Theater, one of Louisiana's only single-screen movie theaters and one of New Orleans' oldest. It opened in 1915.

AP

Actress Sandra Bullock attends the Warner Bros. premiere of "The Blind Side", in New York, on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2009.

Parker-Broderick surrogate takes stand in Ohio

ST. CLAIRSVILLE, Ohio (AP)—The woman who bore twin girls for Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick said Thursday that she was living in a West Virginia motel around the time a police chief is accused of breaking into her eastern Ohio home.

Michelle Ross, 26, testified that ultrasound photos, surrogacy files and tax information were gone when she returned, that someone had riffled through photos; and that a plaster cast of her abdomen from when she was pregnant with her own son was misplaced.

Ross' testimony came in the trial in Belmont County Common Pleas Court of suspended Police Chief Barry Carpenter of Martins Ferry, where Ross lived. He is accused of breaking into her home in May and then trying to sell items related to the pregnancy to paparazzi, with the help of Police Chief Chad Dojack of neighboring Bridgeport.

Parker

Ross said the surrogacy agency moved her to the motel in May, when she was eight to nine months pregnant and uncomfortable. She said she had been a surrogate once before and had moved to Ohio from Florida.

Ross said she was not living in the home when a celebrity photographer contacted her to tell her the chiefs and others were trying to sell her personal items.

When asked by a defense attorney why she wrote about her surrogacy on MySpace.com, Ross said she was allowed to discuss it but couldn't say for whom she was carrying.

Ross said the surrogacy agency moved her to a series of cabins after it became known that she was Parker's surrogate. She said she lived in a hotel in Wheeling, W.Va., with her dog, cats and a python just before giving birth, while her son stayed with relatives.

Army fears anti-Obama politics at Palin event

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—The U.S. Army plans to prevent media from covering Sarah Palin's appearance at Fort Bragg, fearing the event will turn into political grandstanding against President Barack Obama, officials said Thursday.

Fort Bragg spokesman Tom McCollum told The Associated Press that the military post's garrison commander and other Army officials had decided to keep media away from Palin's book signing, which will not include a speech.

The AP and The Fayetteville Observer were protesting the decision to ban media.

McCollum said the Army did not want the Monday event to become a platform to express political opinions "directed against the commander in chief."

"The main reason is to stop this from turning into a political platform," he said. "There are Army regulations that basically prohibit military reservations from becoming political platforms by politicians."

He said only one politician can use that platform, "and that person does it as our commander in chief."

Palin, the former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee, has already agreed not to give a speech at Fort Bragg, McCollum said. Officials said Palin will only sign her books at the event and will not stop to pose for photographs or personalize the books.

But McCollum worried that Palin's supporters might use the media to express political opinions from the sprawling military installation that serves as a base for some 35,000 soldiers.

"This will stop someone from grandstanding," he said. Other members of the public would be permitted to attend.

Fort Bragg does not hold many promotional events, especially not with political figures, McCollum said. He added that politicians do come onto Fort Bragg in their official capacity to meet with troops or do private events, but not to hold forums or give speeches. He said the Army was fine allowing Palin to do her event, so long as it didn't become a stage for a public political discussion via the media.

Palin's spokeswoman didn't immediately return an e-mail message seeking comment and a spokeswoman for Palin's publisher, HarperCollins, did not immediately return a call.

Palin began her promotional tour this week for a new memoir, "Going Rogue," with plans to travel through several states that were key to the 2008 election, including North Carolina. She made several stops in the state in 2008 while campaigning on the ticket of GOP presidential nominee John McCain.

'Simpsons' character contest winner is the Bomba

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ladies' man Ricardo Bomba is bringing his charms to "The Simpsons," and it's all the doing of a hospital operations manager with a vivid imagination.

Peggy Black, 52, of Orange, Conn., won a contest to create a character for Fox's long-running animated series, with her entry triumphing among the more than 25,000 received, the network said Thursday.

"Rrrri-carrr-do Bomba," Black said, extravagantly rolling the "R's" in Spanish-language fashion. "He's someone that all the women love and all the men want to be."

Bomba will be introduced in the Jan. 31 episode featuring guest star Chris Martin of Coldplay. The episode had been mostly completed, with a spot reserved for the contest character.

In "Million Dollar Maybe," Homer Simpson is rushing to meet Marge for a date when he encounters Bomba in the episode that centers on a winning lottery ticket.

It's possible Bomba could appear again, said executive producer Al Jean, who helped judge the contest. He described the contest, part of the show's celebration of its 20th year, as a thank you to loyal fans.

Winfrey to announce Friday show will end in 2011

CHICAGO (AP)—Oprah Winfrey's iconic television talk show will end in 2011 after 25 seasons on the air, her production company said Thursday.

Winfrey plans to announce the final date for "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on a live Friday broadcast, according to Chicago-based Harpo Productions Inc.

Winfrey started her broadcasting career in Nashville, Tenn., and Baltimore, Md., before relocating to Chicago in 1984 to host WLS-TV's morning talk show "A.M. Chicago." That show was renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 1985.

A year later, Winfrey established Harpo and her talk show went into syndication. In 1990, Winfrey opened Harpo Studios in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood.

Over the years, Winfrey drew Chicago into her spotlight. In September, she drew more than 20,000 fans to a taping of her show on Michigan Avenue. A tearful Winfrey was in Chicago's Grant Park as Barack Obama was elected president.

She also lobbied for Chicago's failed bid to host the 2016 Olympics, traveling to Denmark in an attempt to woo members of the International Olympic Committee to vote for her hometown.

In January 2008, Winfrey opened The Oprah Store—a 5,500-square-foot hybrid souvenir shop and trendy boutique—near her studios in an area that was once a warehouse district. It has hosted an average 250 post-Oprah show shoppers and curious Winfrey fans a day.

AP

In this Nov. 1, 2009 file photo, Oprah Winfrey arrives at the premiere of the film "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire," at AFI Fest 2009 in Los Angeles.

Kate Moss criticized after skinny-is-good remark

LONDON (AP)—Eating disorder experts criticized Kate Moss on Thursday after the supermodel cited as her motto a phrase used on Web sites that encourage girls to avoid eating.

In an interview with the fashion Web site WWD, Moss said one of her mottos was "nothing tastes as good as skinny feels."

The same slogan is posted on Web sites encouraging girls not to eat.

Mary George of British eating-disorder charity Beat called Moss's words "very unfortunate."

"Comments like this make it even more difficult" for young people struggling with an eating disorder," she said.

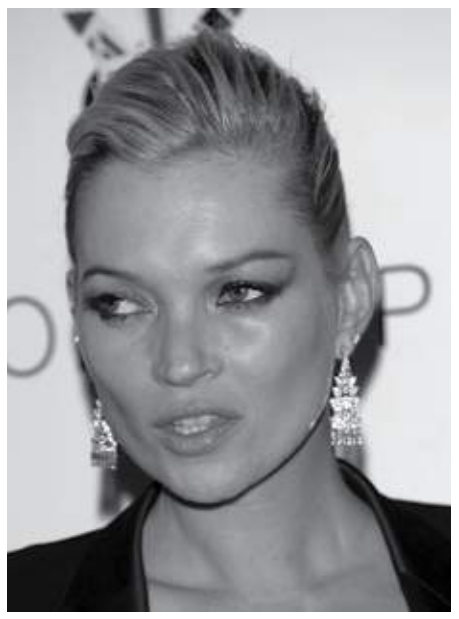
Model Katie Green, who is campaigning to stop the use of ultra-thin "size zero" models, told The Sun newspaper the comments were "shocking and irresponsible."

Moss, 35, is famous for her waif-like look, which helped spur a trend for super-thin models in the 1990s.

Moss's modeling agency, Storm, said her words had been misinterpreted.

"This was part of a longer answer Kate gave during a wider-ranging interview, which has unfortunately been taken out of context and completely misrepresented," the agency said in a statement. "For the record, Kate does not support this as a lifestyle choice."

British clothing sizes are normally two sizes above clothing sold in the U.S., so a 'size zero' in the United States would be a size 4 in Britain.



AP

This is a Wednesday, April 1, 2009 file photo of British model Kate Moss as she attends a TOPSHOP TOPMAN flagship store opening party in New York.

Chris Brown receives 'extremely favorable' report

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown has received an "extremely favorable" report from probation officials overseeing his felony assault case, a judge said Thursday.

Brown appeared in a Los Angeles courtroom to offer a judge his first progress report since being sentenced for beating ex-girlfriend Rihanna earlier this year. He talked and laughed with his lawyer before the hearing, which took less than 10 minutes.

The R&B singer is serving five years of probation and must attend domestic violence counseling and perform six months of community labor in Virginia.

Brown's attorney, Mark Geragos, says Brown has already done 100 hours of community labor in Richmond, Va.

Los Angeles Patricia Schnegg said Brown has also paid all of his court-ordered fees and fines.

Both Brown and Rihanna are trying to put the beating behind them by focusing on their careers. Rihanna has a popular new single titled "Russian Roulette." Brown is due to release his third album on Dec. 8.

Brown is due back in court for another progress report on Feb. 18. Schnegg told Brown that once he completes his community service and counseling sessions, she won't require him to come back to court every three months.

AP

In this Feb. 7, 2009 file photo, Chris Brown arrives at the Clive Davis pre-Grammy party in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Miss Calif. pageant gives ad time to gay group

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Miss California USA pageant director who became embroiled in a war of words with former title holder Carrie Prejean has donated 30-seconds of free ad time to the state's largest gay rights group.

Equality California announced Thursday that it would be airing a spot featuring a teenage girl with two mothers during the Nov. 22 contest, which is airing on the CW and My Network TV.

Keith Lewis, the pageant's executive director, says he would give Prejean the same amount of time if she wanted to provide a pre-taped message.

Tom Cruise in Austria's Salzburg for film shoot

VIENNA (AP)—Tom Cruise has arrived in the Austrian city of Salzburg to shoot scenes for the new action comedy "Knight & Day."

Cruise, wearing sunglasses and a casual shirt, waved as he got off a private jet at the local airport Thursday afternoon.

Austrian broadcaster ORF reports that Cameron Diaz, Cruise's co-star, has been in Salzburg since Tuesday.

"Knight & Day" is directed by James Mangold and is due to be released next summer.

The Salzburg film shoot is expected to last less than a week. Earlier this month, hundreds of locals tried to snag spots as extras.

AP

Actor Tom Cruise waves to media when arriving at the Salzburg airport in Austria, on Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009.

Daughter cringes when mom does happy dance in public

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am an 11-year-old girl who loves going shopping and doing various stuff with my mom. But when we go to the mall or stop for lunch and she hears a song she likes, she'll start singing to it. And if we're standing up, she even dances to it a little.

I have tried telling her to stop because she's embarrassing me, but all she says is, "No one is looking, honey." She also does it at home in front of my friends when I play my iPod. Any suggestions?

BLUSHING IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR BLUSHING: Your problem is one that has been shared by generations of young people. You have reached an age when image is becoming important to you, and you're afraid that your mother's behavior will reflect badly on you. It won't.

Rather than be embarrassed, please consider how lucky you are to have an upbeat, music-loving mother with a sense of rhythm and some knowledge of the lyrics. (If she has forgotten, be a sweetheart and offer to teach her.) I have it on good authority that an "old dog" can learn new tricks.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: After 30 years of marriage I still don't know how to tell my wife she can't cook. I came home tonight to find an expensive piece of meat I had been looking forward to eating reduced to shoe leather.

In our golden years, we will be able to afford to splurge on expensive cuts of meat, etc., only rarely. It is disappointing to have to toss it into the garbage.

I never encouraged my wife to cook, and usually the pressure of work distracts her. But she has been "surprising" me more often with "delicacies" on her days off.

I dread retirement. How can I nicely ask her not to go to the trouble of preparing these disastrous dishes?

WANTS TO BE TACTFUL

DEAR WANTS: Who has been doing the cooking in your household all these years—or have the two of you been eating out? Because you can't bring yourself to tell your wife her cooking skills need improvement, allow me to offer an alternative. Sign the two of you up for nighttime cooking classes so she can brush up on her culinary skills and, if necessary, you can take over the role of family chef after you retire. Bon appetit!

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My parents divorced when I was 15. It was nasty. My mother, in an act of desperation, dragged me into it. I was placed in foster care until her allegations were looked into and found to be false.

I held a grudge for 10 years. During that time I was bitter, angry, shy, anxious, scared—overall, just a mess. I finally realized that until I addressed those feelings, it would affect all aspects of my life.

At 25, I am finally trying to have a relationship with my mother. It has been hard. There are some things from the past that I cannot forget, and I find it difficult to let go of my anger and resentment.

I'd like to write a book about my experience as a guide to forgiving and moving on, but if I do, I would not be able to hide my identity or my mother's. Is it realistic to write a self-help book without the world knowing it's my family I'm talking about? I'm longing to help others.

ASPIRING WRITER IN ILLINOIS

DEAR ASPIRING WRITER: It can be done. I can think of two ways to accomplish what you have in mind. The first would be to write the story as fiction. The second would be to adopt a pen name. Whether or not your story turns out to be a best seller, the experience would be cathartic.

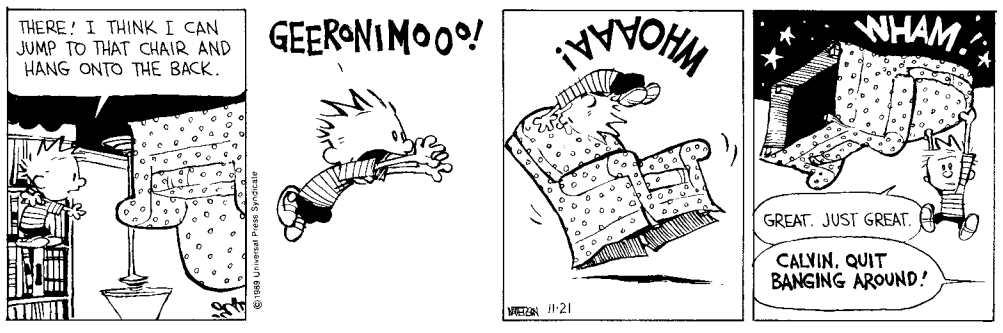
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

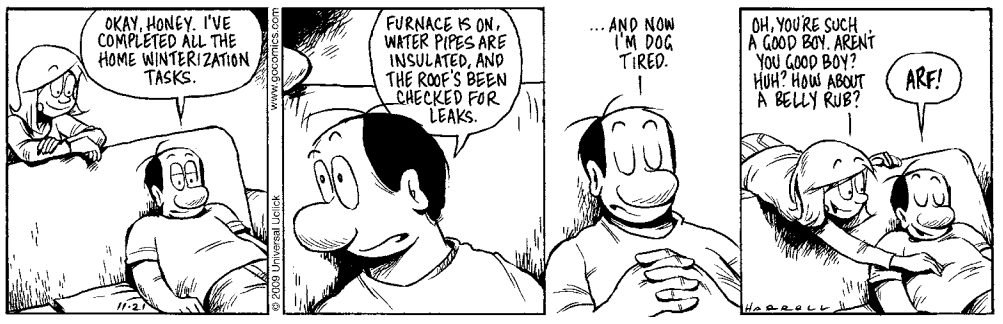

THERE! I THINK I CAN JUMP TO THAT CHAIR AND HANG ONTO THE BACK.
GEERONIMOOO!
WHOAAA!
WHAM!
GREAT. JUST GREAT.
CALVIN, QUIT BANGING AROUND!
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

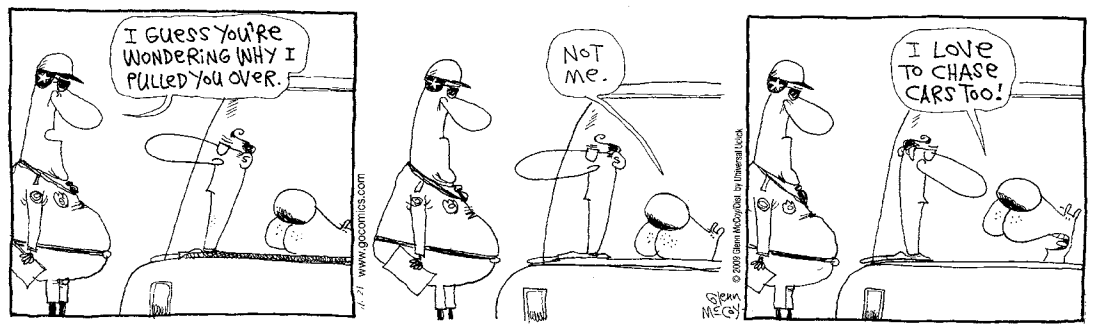
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, HONEY. I'VE COMPLETED ALL THE HOME WINTERIZATION TASKS.
FURNACE IS ON, WATER PIPES ARE INSULATED, AND THE ROOF'S BEEN CHECKED FOR LEAKS.
... AND NOW I'M DOG TIRED.
OH, YOU'RE SUCH A GOOD BOY. AREN'T YOU GOOD BOY? HUH? HOW ABOUT A BELLY RUB?
ARF!
© 2009 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I Guess You're Wondering WHY I Pulled You Over.
Not me.
I Love To Chase CARS Too!
www.gocomics.com
© 2009 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

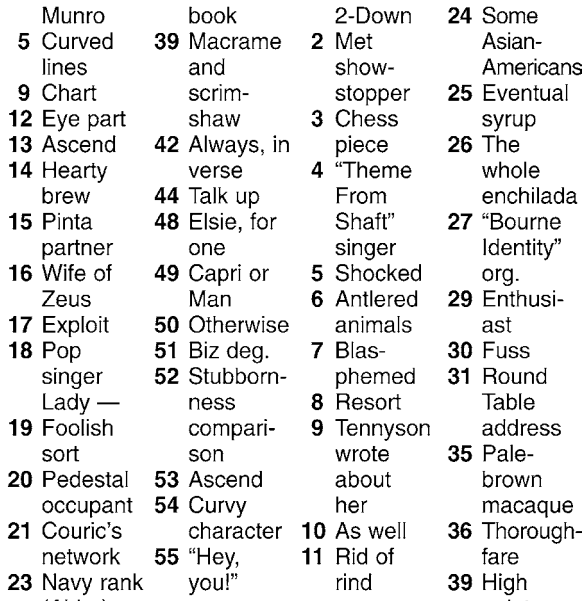
ACROSS
1 Pseudonym of H.H. Munro
5 Curved lines
9 Chart
12 Eye part
13 Ascend
14 Hearty brew
15 Pinta partner
16 Wife of Zeus
17 Exploit
18 Pop singer Lady —
19 Foolish sort
20 Pedestal occupant
21 Couric's network
23 Navy rank (Abbr.)
25 Potpourri pouch
28 Ross and Rigg
32 Wanted poster datum
33 Riyadh resident
34 Musician at work
36 Portion of an area
37 Biblical verb ending
38 McCourt book
39 Macrame and scrimshaw
42 Always, in verse
44 Talk up
48 Elsie, for one
49 Capri or Man
50 Otherwise
51 Biz deg.
52 Stubbornness comparison
53 Ascend
54 Curvy character
55 "Hey, you!"
56 Standard

DOWN
1 Perform 2-Down
2 Met showstopper
3 Chess piece
4 "Theme From Shaft" singer
5 Shocked
6 Antlered animals
7 Blasphemed
8 Resort
9 Tennyson wrote about her
10 As well
11 Rid of rind
20 Famed violin virtuoso
22 Harass
24 Some Asian-Americans
25 Eventual syrup
26 The whole enchilada
27 "Bourne Identity" org.
29 Enthusiast
30 Fuss
31 Round Table address
35 Pale-brown macaque
36 Thoroughfare
39 High point
40 Filches
41 "— brillig, and ..."
43 Right angles
45 Medley
46 Abbr. on old maps
47 Abound
49 Mischievous tyke

Solution time: 27 mins.

S	A	C	■	C	H	A	R	■	A	D	A	M
E	G	O	■	Z	A	N	Y	■	L	I	M	O
C	O	R	V	E	T	T	E	■	K	A	Y	O
■	■	■	R	A	C	E	■	■	B	A	L	L	S
E	D	I	T	H	■	C	O	A	L	■	■	■
R	I	D	S	■	C	O	R	S	I	C	A	N
I	D	O	■	S	U	R	G	E	■	O	N	E
C	O	R	D	U	R	O	Y	■	O	R	T	S
■	■	■	A	B	E	T	■	F	R	U	I	T
F	O	U	R	S	■	■	B	E	E	N	■	■
L	U	R	K	■	C	O	R	R	O	D	E	D
E	S	S	E	■	A	R	E	A	■	U	S	O
D	E	A	N	■	M	E	W	L	■	M	P	H

Yesterday's answer 11-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ken Griffey Jr., 40; Troy Aikman, 43; Bjork, 44; Goldie Hawn, 64

Happy Birthday: You will have to rely on your past experience in order to make the right choices this year. Your industrious attitude and fair-minded way of handling others will account for some of your success. How you deal with dead weight and pending problems will be what makes a difference in the end. Your numbers are 8, 14, 18, 22, 29, 31, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Actions are the only thing that count and it's up to you to make things happen. Don't let someone else's burden drag you down. You have to surpass the obstacles—invest in yourself and your talent. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You are in a better position to take on a challenge and to stick up for what you believe in than anyone else, so don't leave the dirty work to someone who won't do you justice. Connect with the people interested in what you have to offer. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Be prepared to move fast. Get laborious chores out of the way in the least amount of time. Your unique way of handling others will impress someone who is looking for a good talker and a quick thinker. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): It's nice to share your ideas and plans but, once you do, you are likely to be taken advantage of. Don't let compliments lead to promises you can't afford to fulfill. Protect your plans, your assets and your emotional well-being. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Being in control and making what you have to offer special will command attention and demand. A lover may not approve of what you are doing but, in the end, will see the benefits and comply. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Loosen up and have some fun and you will make a lasting impression that will set the stage for good things to come. You can work hard but, if you don't play with your comrades, you will end up being an outsider. Love is in the picture. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You can expect to face challenges and someone who is trying to stand in your way. Learn from past experience and you will make the right move. Be in the forefront, speaking up for your beliefs. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Once you explain what you are doing, you will get the help you need, leaving more time to market what you want to do. The truth will come from the people you least expect. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can raise the stakes and make headway by doing things a little differently. Your insight, innovation and communication will gain interest, allowing you to make use of many of the experiences you have had. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Let down your guard and share your feelings. You'll be happy you did as you sort through issues that have been bothering you.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

The changes that take place will set the stage for greater honesty and compatibility with someone special. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Don't put yourself in a vulnerable position by sharing too much about your private life. Keep a little mystery in the mix. A good relationship can make all the difference in the world to your future. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): What you offer others will be respected and appreciated. A chance to hook up with someone who will benefit you personally and financially is apparent. You can make a commitment or promise that will help to seal a deal you've been pursuing. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative and entertaining. You adapt well to change and you are a great communicator. You are zealous about your beliefs.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9						1	
8								6
	2		4		1		5	
		7	3		9	1		
				2				
		6	7		8	2		
	4		8		5		9	
3								4
	7						3	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	3	9	1	8	5	7	4
9	4	7	2	6	5	3	1	8
8	1	5	3	4	7	9	6	2
2	9	6	7	8	1	4	3	5
4	3	1	5	2	6	7	8	9
7	5	8	4	9	3	6	2	1
3	7	2	1	5	4	8	9	6
5	6	9	8	7	2	1	4	3
1	8	4	6	3	9	2	5	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 11/20

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

SECOND DAY OF VACATION **Solution: 7 letters**

A	E	N	O	H	P	E	L	E	T	A	M	I	L	C
R	C	E	P	X	T	O	R	G	A	N	I	Z	E	E
R	I	X	R	E	A	L	E	L	O	S	T	N	S	L
A	V	H	T	F	A	L	A	X	C	E	T	E	S	E
N	D	A	T	P	E	C	E	H	R	E	R	D	D	B
G	A	U	A	M	A	R	E	R	R	O	P	E	N	R
E	P	S	E	E	L	D	A	T	H	A	S	T	E	A
M	A	T	R	A	U	N	A	C	S	T	A	N	I	T
E	C	E	T	L	D	I	A	T	I	N	E	E	R	E
N	T	D	E	S	N	L	I	N	N	S	L	I	F	C
T	I	(F)	R	M	M	M	A	I	C	O	T	R	A	I
S	V	(U)	E	E	E	T	N	A	R	E	T	O	M	O
T	I	(N)	D	R	I	G	P	A	C	E	E	S	I	J
O	T	T	R	O	S	E	R	E	S	T	S	I	L	E
P	Y	Y	N	Y	R	E	V	O	C	S	I	D	Y	R

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 11/21

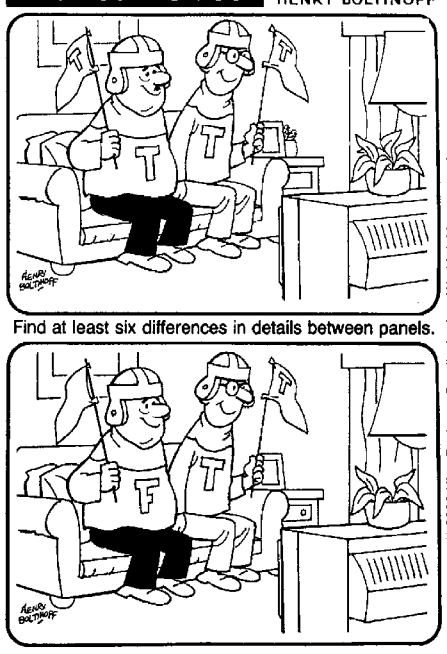
Activity, Adapt, Advice, Arrangements, Calmed, Carefree, Celebrate, Chores, Climate, Destination, Discovery, Disoriented, Entertainment, Errands, Escape, Exhausted, Family, Friends, Fun, Halt, Lost, Meals, Merry, Organize, Pace, Pastime, Peace, Rejoice, Relax, Resort, Rest, Retreat, Schedule, Settle, Stop, Tanning, Telephone

Yesterday's Answer: Foliated

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Differences: 1. Letter on flag is missing. 2. Mustache is gone. 3. Vase is missing. 4. Drawer knob has been added. 5. Letter on shirt is different. 6. Plant has fewer leaves.

Wishing Well®

5	4	2	5	6	8	5	6	7	5	4	7	2
E	T	B	A	Y	O	S	O	A	E	R	D	E
8	4	7	2	5	6	8	5	6	8	6	4	7
B	E	E	A	Y	U	S	O	G	T	E	A	E
8	7	2	7	6	7	6	2	5	6	7	8	4
A	P	L	S	T	E	A	E	U	N	A	C	T
7	4	5	4	8	4	3	6	7	8	5	7	8
T	Y	R	O	L	U	N	S	E	E	M	D	S
4	7	5	8	4	7	8	5	7	3	7	5	6
R	A	I	R	S	T	E	N	T	O	A	D	W
7	4	7	3	7	8	2	4	6	8	7	4	7
C	E	H	G	M	M	A	L	E	O	E	F	N
8	3	6	7	2	3	8	6	8	2	3	2	3
V	O	R	T	D	O	E	S	D	E	F	R	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Super Crossword

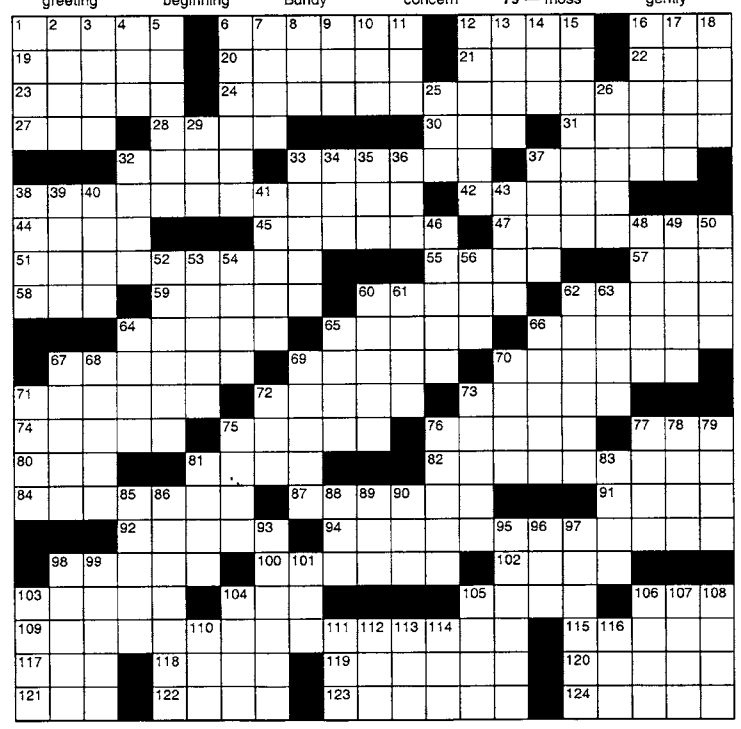
LOVE'S LABOR LOST

ACROSS

1 Fowl family
6 Drag before a judge
12 Rock's partner
16 Barbecue leftover
19 Bar hop?
20 Tchaikovsky's "— Onegin"
21 Butter sub
22 Hwy.
23 Column style
24 Start of a remark
27 Pressure meas.
28 Skinny
30 Hamburger holder
31 Tinker Bell or Titania
32 Head for the hills
33 Malone's portrayer
37 Strong guys
38 Part 2 of remark
42 Agricultural inventor
44 Rabbit relative
45 Pressed
47 Rock's Loggins & —
51 "Evita" setting
55 Villainous
57 Travel need
58 Street greeting
59 Sylvan setting
60 Run a meeting
62 Tremble
64 Fully grown
65 Revolutionary writer
66 Made a face
67 Juicy pear
69 Part 3 of remark
70 Sent to Sing Sing
71 January stoat
72 Military headgear
73 Comic
74 Rental agreement
75 Like some signals
76 — boom
77 Envelope code
80 Big —
81 Falafel holder
82 Method
84 Bit of wit
87 Narrow passage
91 Literary pseudonym
92 Some jeans
94 Part 4 of remark
98 Stage whisper
100 Summit
102 Big beginning
103 Circe's suitors
104 Alternative to nothing
105 Kirk's navigator
106 Short snooze
109 End of remark
115 Sun-dried brick
117 Likable prez
118 Butte
119 Audrey Tautou role
120 Type of orange
121 Litter sound
122 Appear to be
123 Hole grain food?
124 Calm down

DOWN

1 Radar presence
2 Bravo and Grande
3 Start of everything?
4 Sapporo sash
5 Compliant
6 Farm youngster
7 Car
8 "That's disgusting!"
9 Fire sign
10 Burmese statesman
11 Mrs. Al Bundy
12 Portly
13 Ken or Lena
14 Author Wallace
15 Leisure lovers
16 Comic Auerbach
17 No-nonsense
18 Actress Lamarr
25 Where Sopranos shouldn't sing?
26 They'll never hurt me!
29 Born
32 Liberate
33 Half a rock group
34 From — Z
35 Diarist Anais
36 Canonized Mlle.
37 Pump part
38 Ultimate whale watcher
39 Author John Dickson —
40 Southern constellation
41 French psychologist
43 Gulf ruler
46 Martin and Stockwell
48 PR concern
49 Missing more than mittens
50 Imitated
52 Novelist Gordimer
53 Armistice
54 Keep the pedal off the metal
56 Compete
60 Was concerned
61 Subtle taste
62 Marmalade fruit
63 Unlikely to allure
64 Benoit's buddies
65 Unadulterated
66 Frenzied
67 Inch along
68 Muscat native
69 Mavericks' state
70 Doyenne deity
71 Czech river
72 Got scammed
73 Onward
75 "La Boheme" heroine
76 Ill will
77 South African native
78 2001 Judi Dench film
79 — moss
81 Macadamize
83 — vu
85 Spark in the dark
86 Uses frequent flier miles
88 In addition
89 Carpet
90 Demolished dessert
93 Saudi salutation
95 Inspires a smile
96 — Aviv
97 Exotic pet
98 Cease the z's
99 Tendon
101 Thickness
103 Do laps
104 Chartres part
105 Vaudeville bit
106 Salmon snack
107 Assist a felon
108 Soccer superstar
110 Ruby or Sandra
111 Arch. tool
112 Med. insurer
113 Sundown, to Shelley
114 Actor Gulager
116 Apply gently



© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

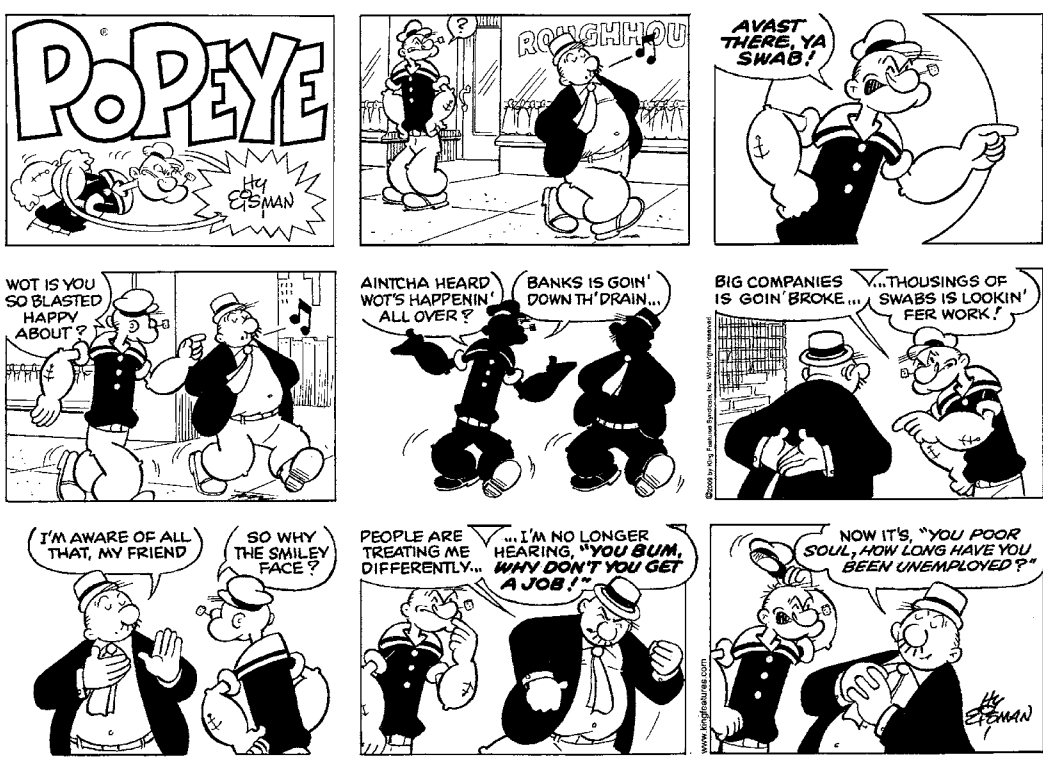
1. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What would a group of emus be called?
2. LANGUAGE: What is a synonym for jejune?
3. MYTHOLOGY: In the mythical Greek tale, what was the name of Jason's ship used in pursuit in the Golden Fleece?
4. AD SLOGANS: Which company's ads claim its services are "So easy, a caveman can do it"?
5. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter"?
6. MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY: What is a more common name for the medical condition called cyesis?
7. TELEVISION: Who used to sign off his program with the words, "Good night and good luck"?
8. LITERATURE: Who was the author of the novel "Zuckerman Unbound"?
9. MOVIES: In which film is "The Children's Marching Song" performed?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest bay in the world?

Answers

1. A mob
2. Dull
3. The Argo
4. GEICO
5. Martin Luther King Jr.
6. Pregnancy
7. Edward R. Murrow
8. Philip Roth
9. "The Inn of the Sixth Happiness"
10. Bay of Bengal

© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Saturday's Answers


POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
ROUGHHHOU
AVAST THERE, YA SWAB!
WOT IS YOU SO BLASTED HAPPY ABOUT?
AINTCHA HEARD WOT'S HAPPENIN' ALL OVER?
BANKS IS GOIN' DOWN TH' DRAIN...
BIG COMPANIES IS GOIN' BROKE...
...THOUSINGS OF SWABS IS LOOKIN' FER WORK!
I'M AWARE OF ALL THAT, MY FRIEND
SO WHY THE SMILEY FACE?
PEOPLE ARE TREATING ME DIFFERENTLY...
...I'M NO LONGER HEARING, "YOU BUM, WHY DON'T YOU GET A JOB!"
NOW IT'S, "YOU POOR SOUL, HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN UNEMPLOYED?"
www.kingfeatures.com

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

LAST NIGHT I DREAMT THAT YOU BOUGHT ME A NEW CAR!
MAYBE IN TONIGHTS DREAM YOU CAN COME UP WITH THE MONEY!
©2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

FISHING GUIDES' CLICHÉS WE'RE TIRED OF HEARING···
YA SHOULDA BEEN HERE LAST WEEK··· YA COULDN'T REEL 'EM IN FAST ENOUGH···
RI-I-I-I-GHT--
SEAWEED II
Thank to ERWIN EDELMAN, SARASOTA, FL.
©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
CHECKING UP WHEN THE OFFICE GAL SAYS SHE NEEDS MORE FILING CABINETS FOR THE MAIL···
H'MMPH!
Thank To J. WITHER, WASHINGTON, D.C.
TOO LATE DEP'T--
W-WHA'--?
HELLO, MAMA.. Y'KNOW THAT OLD RED SOFA I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET YOU TO THROW OUT? WELL, I CAN USE IT IN OUR PLAYROOM···
D.S.C. CLEANUP WEEK
Thank To K. CROWLEY, LOS ANGELES, CA.
ALSCADUTO@OPTONLINE.NET

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Intent to dissolve Neo Fashion Inc., a corporation which is registered in Saipan, has been delivered to the Registrar of Corporations.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO WITHDRAW AND NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO WITHRAW

Following a strategic review of our business in the region, notice is being given that MITSUI SUMITOMO INSURANCE CO., LTD. intends to withdraw from the insurance business in the CNMI. Pursuant to 20 NMIAC § 20-40.1-210, an application for an Order permitting withdrawal from the insurance business in the CNMI has been filed with the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI.

All persons interested in this matter should contact Rodney J. Rankin, Aon Insurance Micronesia (Saipan), Inc. as General Agent for Mitsui Sumitom Insurance Co., Ltd., P.O. Box 502177, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or (670) 234-2811.

Mitsui Sumitomo Insurance Co., Ltd.

ACCOUNTANT

Saipan Aquaculture has immediate opening for an Accountant. Permanent Residents or Contract Workers are welcome.

Apply in person or bring resume to Saipan Ice & Water Company Inc. in Lowerbase. Email address is spnice@pticom.com

WHATZIT Solution: Pisces

WANTED TO LEASE

Looking for house property. Lease 55yrs. Budget price $30,000-$35,000. We pay cash. Please call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE

Selling Brand New, billiard/pool table, original price $1,900, now, $1,500, comes with free service. Please call 287-7676.

FOR SALE

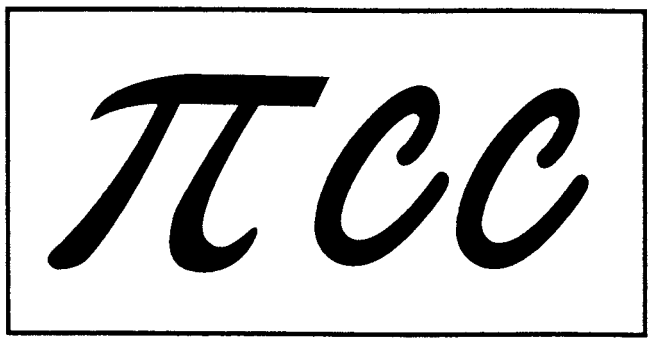
For Sale TV 42" $499, DVD Player $199, table $49.00, lamp $9, fridge $149.00, bicycle $299. Call 287-8371.

WANTED TO RENT

Looking for a 3-4 bedroom concrete house for a single family with preferring in the areas of Garapan, Navy Hill, China Town or nearby. Please call Mr. Gu at 989-0336. Thank you.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
50¢
Mereb quits position. PAGE 3
previous CPA board travels. PAGE 5
ge on Saipan
Fitial says decision to end Aggreko 'far from certain'
CUC emergency extended anew
RELATED NEWS
PAGE 6
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
9 percent drop in foreign investors
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235- NEWS

Gasol scores 24 in debut, Lakers top Bulls

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Pau Gasol had 24 points and 13 rebounds in his season debut, and Kobe Bryant scored 21 points while passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on the Lakers' career scoring chart in Los Angeles' 108-93 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night.

Ron Artest added 15 points for the Lakers, who finally had their full starting lineup intact for their ninth victory in 12 games to start the season. The defending NBA champions had little trouble with the Bulls, opening a 20-point lead in the third quarter before beating them for the eighth time in nine meetings.

Derrick Rose had 20 points and John Salmons scored all 18 of his points in the first half for the Bulls, who lost on the second stop of a taxing six-game road trip.

Gasol missed the Lakers' first 11 games with a right hamstring injury, but the Spanish forward appeared fully healthy in his first appearance since early in the preseason. Gasol scored 10 of the Lakers' first 13 points, moving easily on his injured leg while playing 34 minutes.

Bryant clearly took a back seat to Gasol early on in a 7-for-21 shooting night, but still added nine rebounds and eight assists. And two days after Bryant posted his 100th career 40-point game, he reached yet another milestone.

With a free throw in the third quarter, Bryant passed Abdul-Jabbar (24,276) for second place on the Lakers' career scoring list, leaving him trailing only Jerry West (25,192).

Although Bryant's shot was off early, he scored 11 points in the second quarter to put Los Angeles up 53-42 at halftime. Rose's 2-for-11 shooting in the first half slowed down the Bulls, who had won two straight.

Six Lakers scored in double figures, including 12 for Derek Fisher.

Before beating Sacramento on Tuesday, the Bulls were 9-56 since Michael Jordan's departure on the annual fall road trip made necessary by the circus occupying the United Center around Thanksgiving. Chicago still must stop in Denver, Portland, Utah and Milwaukee before getting home in December.

Gasol played in just two preseason games before sitting down with a hamstring injury that didn't appear to improve much with rest. He wondered aloud whether his hectic schedule over the past two years—including a summer with an NBA title run and a tournament MVP award at the European championships in Poland during September - had worn down his body.

Gasol tipped in Andrew Bynum's missed layup on the Lakers' first possession and hit two free throws the next time down. Gasol got the ball in the high post on the third possession and fed it to Bynum down low, illustrating the versatility of the triangle offense—which used to be called the triple post, Lakers coach Phil Jackson noted before the game.

Los Angeles Lakers center Pau Gasol of Spain celebrates a basket during the first half of their NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls, Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP

NBA BRIEFS

Iverson clears waivers, becomes free agent

NEW YORK (AP)—Allen Iverson has cleared waivers and is free to sign with any NBA team. The former MVP was waived Tuesday after playing only three games with the Memphis Grizzlies and no team claimed him in the following 48 hours, making him a free agent. The New York Knicks are discussing whether they want to bring in the 34-year-old guard. Iverson was unhappy coming off the bench last season in Detroit and this season with the Grizzlies, so there isn't expected to be much interest in him.

Hunter plans bargaining meeting with Stern soon

NEW YORK (AP)—NBA players' association director Billy Hunter plans another negotiating session soon with commissioner David Stern, and here's something that might come up. The union says player salaries will fall this season, which would be only the second drop in the salary cap era. Hunter was in Brooklyn, where the union partnered with the Madison Square Boys & Girls Club to distribute 500 turkeys Thursday. The union will give out turkeys in every NBA city, totaling about 15,000 turkeys, during the holiday season. The Nets hope to move to Brooklyn, but in the meantime Hunter hopes they play their games in Newark.

NYC groups sue to block deal for Nets arena

NEW YORK (AP)—Opponents of the Brooklyn arena planned for the New Jersey Nets have filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn a state agency's approval of the project. The lawsuit was filed Thursday in Manhattan state Supreme Court. It seeks to block a Sept. 17 move by the Empire State Development Corp. to approve a delayed construction plan for the Atlantic Yards project. The suit was filed by several elected officials and Brooklyn neighborhood groups. The lawsuit is the latest of several legal challenges to the 22-acre Atlantic Yards project. The project is to include the basketball arena, office towers and apartments. Developer Forest City Ratner says it is not surprised that opponents "who pledged to sue early and often are still suing."

Hornets 110, Suns 103

In New Orleans, Peja Stojakovic hit seven 3-pointers during a 25-point, 13-rebound performance in New Orleans' victory over Phoenix.

Devin Brown and rookie Marcus Thornton each scored 19 for the Hornets, who won their second straight under new head coach Jeff Bower.

The score was 96-96 when Stojakovic and rookie Darren Collison hit back-to-back 3s, and New Orleans held on from there.

Amare Stoudemire had 23 points for Phoenix.

Jazz 90, Spurs 83

In San Antonio, Deron Williams scored 21 points and Utah ended its decade-long misery in San Antonio.

Utah had not won a regular-season game in San Antonio since 1999, a losing streak that spanned 20 games. Paul Millsap added 20 points for the Jazz.

Tim Duncan scored 21 points, and he has seldom seen San Antonio struggle at the start of a season like this. The Spurs revamped their roster this summer, but they have their first losing record after 10 games since 1996.

Williams leads Dolphins over Panthers, 24-17

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)— Ricky Williams is 32 and far from done. And even without Ronnie Brown, the once written-off Miami Dolphins are back in the playoff picture.

Williams rushed for 119 yards and scored three touchdowns, and the Dolphins beat the Carolina Panthers 24-17 on Thursday night for their fourth win in six games.

A day after learning Brown is lost for the season, the Dolphins (5-5) continued their surge after an 0-3 start behind Williams. The 2002 NFL rushing champion had a receiving and rushing touchdown in the same game for the first time in his career that includes a couple of lost seasons.

"Coach always talks about finishing," Williams said. "Sometimes in this league, in a physical game, it's difficult to finish. I think in the past we've prided ourselves on finishing games and we did a good job tonight."

It was enough to beat the Panthers (4-6) when Jake Delhomme's desperation pass into the end zone was knocked down as time expired.

DeAngelo Williams rushed for 122 yards, but Delhomme had his streak of three games without an interception snapped, then couldn't lead a late comeback bid.

Dolphins coach Tony Sparano hinted his team might abandon the wildcat without Brown, who was placed on injured reserve Wednesday because of a foot injury. And Miami didn't use the formation until the second quarter. It coincided with the Dolphins' first touchdown drive - Chad Henne's 14-yard touchdown pass to Williams, who wrestled away from linebacker Na'il Diggs.

Miami took a 14-3 halftime lead when Williams took the direct snap at the 1 and got to the end zone ahead of speedy linebacker Jon Beason.

"Our offense really clicked," Dolphins left tackle Jake Long said. "Ricky ran great."

The Panthers got within 17-14 on Steve Smith's leaping 27-yard touchdown catch and DeAngelo Williams' 2-point conversion run with 5:18 left. But Ricky Williams bounced to the outside and shook off Sherrod Martin at the Carolina 5 on a 46-yard touchdown run on the ensuing possession.

Williams also caught two passes for 19 yards and a touchdown. Chad Henne overcame losing his center and his backup and committed no turnovers.

Still, the Dolphins had to hold off the Panthers. After Williams' long run, the Panthers kicked a field goal. They then forced a punt, and Delhomme found Gary Barnidge on passes of 29 and 17 yards. But from the Miami 26, Delhomme's lob into the end zone was knocked down by Tyrone Culver as time ran out.

"We battled. It just wasn't good enough," Delhomme said.

Early on, Carolina's offense stalled under the weight of its makeshift offensive line—and the return of Dolphins linebacker Joey Porter from exile.

Benched from Sunday's win over Tampa Bay, Porter served as a captain for the coin toss, then sacked Delhomme on third down on Carolina's opening drive, leading to John Kasay's 29-yard field goal.

The Panthers mixed in some of the no-huddle offense on the drive after its effective debut Sunday against Atlanta. But they used it sparingly after that, and the offense got bogged down without Pro Bowl left tackle Jordan Gross.

Porter had two of Delhomme's three first-half sacks, beating Gross' replacement Travelle Wharton.

AP

Miami Dolphins' Ricky Williams (34) runs past Carolina Panthers' Damione Lewis (92) and Jon Beason (52) on a 46-yard touchdown in the second half of an NFL football game in Charlotte, N.C., Thursday, Nov. 19, 2009.

The Dolphins had their own offensive line troubles. Center Jake Grove left in the third quarter with an ankle injury and was replaced by Joe Berger. Nate Garner moved to center when Berger went down early in the fourth. Henne bobbled Garner's second snap, but he recovered.

Berger returned on the next series and was injured again, but Henne made it look seamless. He completed 17 of 29 passes for 172 yards.

DeAngelo Williams' 50-yard run early in the third quarter seemed to give Carolina life, but the drive ended when Nathan Jones picked off Delhomme's pass intended for Smith at the 4.

Smith caught seven passes for 87 yards despite getting into a minor car accident on the way to the game.

Delhomme, who had thrown 13 interceptions in his first six games, had gone turnover-free this month. He was just 19 of 42 for 247 yards, and Carolina fell to 0-4 against the Dolphins. It was a crushing loss for the Panthers, who also began eyeing the playoffs after starting 0-3.

"I think there's a lot of fight and they'll continue to work," Panthers coach John Fox said. "There's still a lot of football left and we're still no way in any stretch out of it."

But the loss to Fox's old offensive coordinator leaves them in tough shape. Dan Henning, fired by Carolina after the 2006 season, found a way to score just enough without Brown.

Williams, the 1998 Heisman Trophy winner, continued his resurgence after a career that included a brief retirement and a drug-related suspension. The time off might be helping him now when many running backs decline after they turn 30.

Giants' Lincecum wins second consecutive Cy Young

NEW YORK (AP)— Talk about a freak—Tim Lincecum needed just 15 wins to bag another NL Cy Young Award. Yup, throw out those old baseball cards. Wins and losses don't mean much anymore when it comes time for voters to pick baseball's best pitchers. It's all about WHIP, FIP, BABIP and other lines of alphabet soup.

"It's turned into a game of complete numbers and statistics and what people do with that," Lincecum said.

Lincecum won the Cy Young Award on Thursday for the second straight year, emerging from one of the tightest votes in the history of the honor to become the first repeat winner since Randy Johnson.

Only 10 points separated the top three vote-getters. Chris Carpenter was second and St. Louis teammate Adam Wainwright finished third despite getting the most first-place votes.

Lincecum, nicknamed "The Freak" for his giant stride, led the NL with 261 strikeouts and tied for the league lead with four complete games and two shutouts.

The wiry right-hander attracts plenty of attention on the mound with his shoulder-length brown hair and twisting delivery. But it was his 15 victories—the fewest for a Cy Young starter over a non-shortened season—that were really noticeable for the award winner.

The 2009 honors for Lincecum and Kansas City Royals ace Zack Greinke reflect a recent shift in how pitchers are evaluated. The focus has changed to more developed statistics, including some that even take into account team defense.

Greinke equaled the previous low of 16 wins for a non-shortened season when he won the AL award on Tuesday. Afterward, he talked all about FIP, a mathematician's dream that stands for Fielding Independent Pitching.

Lincecum has his own favorite indicator.

Lincecum

"To say which one I look to the most, I would just say WHIP," he said, referring to walks plus hits allowed per inning, "just because you just limit the amount of baserunners that can hurt you."

Lincecum is facing misdemeanor marijuana charges stemming from a traffic stop in his home state of Washington on Oct. 30. No questions were allowed about the incident in his conference call, but he acknowledged making a mistake and apologized in a prepared statement.

"I know that as a professional athlete I have a responsibility to conduct myself appropriately both on and off the field," he said. "I certainly have learned a valuable lesson through all of this and I promise to do better in the future.

"I hope and expect that the matter will be resolved soon. In the meantime I am focused on preparing for the 2010 season."

Lincecum received 11 first-place votes, 12 seconds and nine thirds for 100 points in balloting released by the Baseball Writers' Association of America. Carpenter had nine firsts, 14 seconds and seven thirds to take second with 94.

Wainwright, who led the NL with 19 wins and 233 innings, had 12 first-place votes, five seconds and 15 thirds for 90 points. Trevor Hoffman, who finished behind Tom Glavine in 1998, is the only other player to get the most firsts and not win the award.

"The guys I was going up against, Wainwright and Carpenter, had tremendous seasons," the 25-year-old Lincecum said. "It was a lucky one for me. I'll take them as I come I guess."

Two voters, Will Carroll of Baseball Prospectus and Keith Law of ESPN.com, did not include Carpenter on their ballots. Carroll had Wainwright in the top spot, Lincecum second and Arizona's Dan Haren third. Law voted for Lincecum, Atlanta's Javier Vazquez and Wainwright in third. Those were the only votes for Haren and Vazquez.

The six-point gap between Lincecum and Carpenter is tied for the third-closest in the NL since the ballot expanded to three pitchers in 1970. The 10-point margin from first to third is the second-closest for the NL ballot.

Lincecum, who had a $650,000 salary and is headed for a big raise now that he's eligible for arbitration, did not have any bonus provision for winning the award. Carpenter receives $100,000 for finishing second, Wainwright $100,000 for winding up third and Vazquez $70,000 for being voted fourth.

Lincecum teamed with Matt Cain to give the Giants a strong 1-2 punch at the top of their rotation, helping them stay in contention all year in one of baseball's biggest surprises. He went 15-7 with a 2.48 ERA in 32 starts and 225 1-3 innings.

Johnson, Lincecum's teammate this year in San Francisco, Greg Maddux and Sandy Koufax are the only other NL pitchers to win consecutive Cy Young Awards. Maddux (1992-95 with the Cubs and Braves) and Johnson (1999-2002 with the Diamondbacks) each won four straight, and Koufax was honored in 1965 and 1966 for the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The 5-foot-11, 170-pound Lincecum made his major league debut in 2007 and is 40-17 with a 2.90 ERA in three seasons.

Kagman Projects rally past favored One Way

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	9	3	.750	–
Philadelphia	5	6	.455	3 1/2
Toronto	5	7	.417	4
New York	2	9	.182	6 1/2
New Jersey	0	12	.000	9

Southeast Division

Atlanta	10	2	.833	–
Orlando	9	3	.750	1
Miami	7	4	.636	2 1/2
Washington	3	7	.300	6
Charlotte	3	8	.273	6 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	8	4	.667	–
Milwaukee	6	3	.667	1/2
Indiana	5	4	.556	1 1/2
Chicago	6	5	.545	1 1/2
Detroit	5	7	.417	3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	9	3	.750	–
Houston	7	5	.583	2
San Antonio	4	6	.400	4
New Orleans	5	8	.385	4 1/2
Memphis	3	8	.273	5 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	8	3	.727	–
Portland	9	4	.692	–
Oklahoma City	6	6	.500	2 1/2
Utah	6	6	.500	2 1/2
Minnesota	1	11	.083	7 1/2

Pacific Division

Phoenix	10	3	.769	–
L.A. Lakers	9	3	.750	1/2
Sacramento	5	5	.500	3 1/2
L.A. Clippers	4	9	.308	6
Golden State	3	8	.273	6

Yesterday's Games

New Orleans 110, Phoenix 103
Utah 90, San Antonio 83
L.A. Lakers 108, Chicago 93

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Badly beaten in the first three sets, newcomer Kagman Projects scored points when it mattered most to complete a 52-49 juice out victory against a veteran-laden One Way team last Saturday in the 2009 World Organized Rocball Community League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

One Way predictably had their way early against the new kids on the block as J.R. Gechig, Rodney Rosario, Dean Mathew, Jordan Marciano, and Chris Yug staked them to a 16-8, 16-4, and 16-14 victory in the first three sets, giving them a comfortable 48-13 margin.

However, Rocball rules calls for One Way to also take the fourth set despite their overwhelming advantage.

Too bad for One Way, Kagman Projects woke up in the final canto and went on to nearly skunk One Way, 16-1, to win the match by three points.

Kagman Projects' Alfredo Guevara was his team's heavy hitter with one ace and four kees for 10 points, while teammate Josh Jones scored two aces and his team's only goal for seven points.

The heavy hitter of the game was One Way's Gechig with three aces, one kee, and one goal for 11 points.

Islanders 53, Soul Rebels 43

Islanders and Soul Rebels split the first four sets before the former won the fifth and deciding set to take the win.

Soul Rebels won the second and third sets but Islanders came from behind after losing the third set to outscore the Soul Rebels 17-3 in the fourth to win the game by 10 points. The heavy hitter of this game was Islanders' Tito Francisco with four aces, a xunk, and one kee for 12 points, while teammate Jerry Saures scored two goals.

No Mercy 67, CPC 52

In the second game of the week for both No Mercy and CPC, No Mercy juiced out CPC in four sets.

No Mercy won the first set, 18-10, but CPC came back by taking the second and third, 17-10 and 18-17.

No Mercy then won the fourth set and was able to juice out with a win after Jason Limes scored the game-winning point. Myron Laniyo was the game's heavy hitter with three aces, three xunks, and eight kees for 28 points.

The game saw Ben Lisua become this year's first player to score in all of Rocball's scoring techniques. Lisua scored aces, xunks, kees, goals, and the most difficult play in the sport, a one-point defensive play where a frontline player can jam down a served ball. Laniyo is one play away from earning Rocball's Master Blaster title, as he needs to score a jam to earn the Master Blaster honor.

Fanians 66, CPC 59

Fanians dominated CPC by winning all four sets, 15-4, 17-10, 16-8, and 16-10 last Nov. 12. The heavy hitter of this game was Fanian's Typhoon Saito with four aces and three kees for 14 points.

No Mercy 60, Islanders 45

In the other game last Nov. 12, No Mercy outlasted Islanders with a barrage of points that saw 10 aces, five xunks, 13 kees, and one goal scored.

An ace is a two-point serve, a xunk is an optional two point serve where a team can add two points to their score or subtract two points from their opponent's score, a kee is a two-point backcourt play made by either team's goalie, and a goal is a three-point play made by any player who hits a ball into their opponent's goal.

Islanders' Laniyo had three aces, three xunks, eight kees, and one goal for 31 points in the loss, but No Mercy's Jason Limes came away with the final kill in all four sets. *(Saipan Tribune)*

MATSUMARU

From Page 28

clocked in second with a time of 5:10:33, while compatriot Tatsuo Shimizu came in third with a time of 5:38:54.

In the CEO (Chief Executive Officer) race, Japan's Kenichi Inamoto was able to secure first place with a time of 2:55:56, with countrymen Genri Goto getting second place and Koreyoshi Mukaigawa bagging third.

In the Challenge race, Saipan's Amanda J. Allen, Jackie Van Dam, and Tamiko Winkfield completed the course with a swim time of 28:11, bike time of 1:26:30, and run time of 1:06:58 for a total time of 3:01:39.

Japan's Motoharu Ueda completed the course with a total time of 3:09:20, while Saipan's John Jenkins and teammate David Baker came in third with a total time of 3:28:15.

Jenkins said participating in the triathlon had diverse meanings for the many participants.

"I'm sure for many big-time triathletes, this competition was about racing and winning. For me, it was about doing my personal best and making it to the finish line alive and in one piece. I look forward to participating in future events," he said.

Van Dam, for her part, came away impressed with the multi-sport event and hungry taking part in more triathlons.

"The Rota Blue Triathlon was an awesome triathlon. It was my and my husband first triathlon to compete in and it definitely won't be the last. We were amazed by the natural beauty that Rota has to offer: the secluded beaches, amazing jungle and trees with no *tangan-tangan*, the blue, blue water and the people. It's majestic. The triathlon was both challenging and rewarding both in beauty and fitness level and we can't wait to start training for XTERRA [Saipam Championships] and Tagaman," she said.

Kiyokazu Fitness Club Triathlon Club of Japan hosted the event in collaboration with the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Rota Mayor's Office. This popular triathlon provided participants additional preparation for the upcoming Olympics to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

In all, more than 150 participants took part in the 16th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon, which started with the swim course at the island's East Harbor.

Triathletes then rode their bikes along a 40-km paved and dirt road from Sinapalo Village through Sasanhaya Bay Lookout and back to East Harbor, ending with a 10-km run up the eastside to a point just beyond Alaguan Bay Lookout.

Participants at the awards party, held at Rota Resort and Country Club, feasted on local delicacies while enjoying a local dance group and live band.

"This year's Rota Blue Triathlon was another outstanding success, thanks to the hard work of the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan, the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Resort and Country Club, and all the volunteers," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "And contributing to the success, of course, were the wonderfully hospitable people of Rota."

The annual Rota Blue Triathlon is one of four major triathlon events held in the CNMI, along with the XTERRA Saipan Championship, Tagaman Triathlon, and the Tinian Turquoise Blue events. *(Saipan Tribune)*

SWEEP

From Page 28

squad will play three games. The Top 2 teams after the round-robin playoffs will then move into the finals.

The northern division has six teams in GTC, SIS, SCS, Garapan Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, and Eucon International School. Entered in the southern group are Dandan, Koblerville, Oleai Elementary School, William S Reyes Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, and San Antonio Elementary School.

The SCS Tsunamis and Dandan Tottots finished first and second, respectively, in the boys northern group, while the SIS Geckos ruled the southern side, followed by Koblerville's Umangs.

In the girls division, GTC topped the northern side, while the SIS Lady Geckos were runners-up. Dandan took the No. 1 seeding in the southern division, while Koblerville was ranked second.

The playoff round will continue on Tuesday and Thursday, while the championship round is scheduled for Dec. 5. All playoff matches will be played at Hopwood.

FREE

From Page 28

the game in the third canto and then stole the win after capitalizing on the foul-plagued Cool Water in the fourth quarter.

With Cool Water committing one foul after another and entering the penalty mark early in the fourth canto, GEC made 34 trips from the 15-foot line in that period alone and got 19 points from the foul line. GEC's points off free throws were even higher than its points off field goal conversion (12 points).

The game started with Cool Water and GEC having a neck-and-neck battle in the first period, which ended at 18-all.

In the second quarter, Cool Water began pulling away after drawing contributions from eight players. Cool Water outscored GEC, 23-11, for a 41-29 halftime lead.

GEC failed to keep up with Cool Water in the second quarter, as the former was held to only three field goals and went only 5-for-15 from the foul line.

GEC cut the lead to nine, 50-59, after making a little headway in the third period. Alex Ocampo, who was limited to a field goal in the first half, found his mark in the third canto, drilling nine points, while Warren Villegas and Bobby Vargas added four points apiece to keep GEC afloat.

Cool Water kept the lead at the end of the third quarter with Gilbert Espinosa scoring five points and going 3-for-6 from the free throw line and five other players nailing one field goal each.

Espinosa tried to continue anchoring Cool Water's offense in the fourth canto, but muffed a bundle of shots. To make things worse for Cool Water, it started picking up cheap fouls and sending GEC to the stripe.

Ocampo spent most of his minutes in the fourth quarter stepping to the 15-foot line. He went 7-for-13 from the free throw line in the payoff mark, making more trips to the stripe in that quarter than his combined six visits in the first three cantos.

Another frequent visitor to the charity lane was Adonis Macoto, who went there 10 times and made six free throws. Comebacking Jun Alipio also spent some time at the stripe, going 4-for-6, while Ed Yalung and Oscar Jalandoni went 1-for-2 each, Vargas made one attempt from the foul line but missed the shot.

Ocampo finished with 24 points for GEC, which won its debut in the masters caging. Vargas and Macoto chipped in 12 markers apiece, while four other players combined for 24 markers to help in GEC's balance scoring.

Joseph Galulu and Dindo Pablo had 14 and 13 points, respectively, for Cool Water, which dropped to a 0-2 start after losing its debut against University of Loyola last Sunday. Espinosa also had double figures with 10 points but was scoreless in the fourth period, as he fouled out midway in that canto, while Edsel Delfin also nailed 10 markers, making all of his points in the first half.

Meanwhile, the New City International Construction-Diamond Ali' duel in the open division was halted in the first quarter due to rain and will be rescheduled on a later date.

GEC 81 – Ocampo 24, Vargas 12, Macoto 12, Yalung 6, Villegas 6, Alipio 6, Illahi 6, Jalandoni 4, Salazar 3, Geli 2.

Cool Water 75 – Galulu 14, Pablo 13, Delfin 10, Espinosa 10, Montano 9, Darag 6, Garcia 5, Valencia 3, Moreno 3, Patricio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-18, 29-41, 50-59, 81-75.

8 TEAMS

From Page 28

Unified Basketball Association-led caging are Budweiser league champion Hoopaholics, UFO champion Noni Saipan (formerly Chow Queen), PILCOWA champion Diamond Auto Fixers, Ol'Aces, Advance X-Terminators, Prospects, Trinity Estate, Inc., and Cholos.

The Hoopaholics will be bannered by gunners John and Dave Sablan and James Villacrusis. Also on the team are Joe Villacrusis, Peter Mendiola, Mel Manibusan, Gus and Dave Palacios, Walter Mendez, Syl Teregeyo, Cisco Cruz, Jerry Diaz, and Jacob Villagomez.

The solid five of Kae Bernardo, Wowie Abuel, Ivan De Vero, Bon Tamayo, and Bart Demapan will anchor Noni Saipan. Supporting them are Glenn Aquino, Banjo Basila, Jeff Galvez, Sonny Lerio, Jun Pantaleon, Joey Siriban, Pogs Pangelinan, and Bong Dungca.

PILCOWA Mythical Five member Elmer Esdrelon will lead Diamond's roster, which will be beefed up by frontliners Ed Cosino, Richard Brostrom and Bruce Berline. Also on the Auto Fixers' lineup are John Artates, Mel and White Capalad, Tim Wesley, J.R. Barrios, Glenn Mercurio, Ruel Cayanan, Dan Hernandez, and Might Davin.

Former CNMI National Team members Ed Diaz, Pete Iguel, and Dan Barcinas will play for the Ol'Aces and will team up with veterans Peter Camacho, Romeo Iginoef, Elias Rangamar, and Gabriel White. Completing the team are Jose Tumaquip, Connie Camacho, Jack Lizama, Tyrone Omar, and Leroy Rangamar.

Coach Marvin Deocares' X-Terminators will lean on Jun Estolas, Kelvin Fitial, Junar Guiab, Jorge De Guzman, Leo Factor, Pando Muleta, J.C. Mina, William Opone, Gil Gapor, Emir Abuan, and Bert Suda.

Cholos have yet to complete their lineup, but have already listed seven players, namely Maverick Itibus, Pedro Lizama, Dexter Mendiola, Won Joo Jung, Adrian Baculud, Chris George, and Dave Apatang.

Interestingly, Trinity Estate, Inc. will be parading newcomers in Saipan caging, namely Roger Hereta, Eric Dulfo, Roberto Santos, June Baquiles, Jude and Jun Loste, Rommel Manuel, Roberto Valiente, Joey Patricio, Roy Hernandez, Felipe Hermilio, and Rex Dimafelix.

The UBA caging will kick off on Dec. 7 and will hold games every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Each team will play seven games in the regular season and only the Top 6 squads will advance to the playoffs. The Top 2 finishers will then draw byes in the first round, while the four remaining squads will slug it out in the single-elimination playoffs. The championship round will be a best-of-three affair.

Williams leads Dolphins over Panthers, 24-17

Ricky Williams is 32 and far from done. And even without Ronnie Brown, the once written-off Miami Dolphins are back in the playoff picture. **26**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Gasol scores 24 in debut, Lakers top Bulls

Pau Gasol had 24 points and 13 rebounds in his season debut, and Kobe Bryant scored 21 points while passing Kareem Abdul-Jabbar on the Lakers' career scoring chart in Los Angeles' 108-93 victory over the Chicago Bulls on Thursday night. **25**

Sweep for Koblerville, Dandan, SCS win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The playoff round in the 2009 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League started on Thursday with Koblerville sweeping its assignments and Dandan and Saipan Community School winning separate games at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Koblerville Elementary School made it to the playoffs both in the girls and boys divisions. The Lady Umangs played first and shut out Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, 3-0. In the boys division, the Umangs edged Saipan International School in the shootout, 2-1. Koblerville and SIS engaged in 1-1 draw in the regulation.

In other results in the first round of the playoffs, SCS edged Dandan in the boys division game, 1-0, while Dandan prevailed against SIS in the girls match, 6-0.

This year's U12 interscholastic league has a round-robin format in the regular season. Advancing to the playoffs are the Top 2 teams in the northern and southern divisions and each

See SWEEP on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Dandan Elementary School girls' team poses for a group photo after beating Saipan International School at the start of the playoff round in the NMIFA U12 interscholastic league on Thursday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Joe Villacrusis, seen here going for a reverse layup against Ol'Aces' Tyrone Omar in last year's Budweiser caging, will play anew for Hoopaholics in the UBA caging next month at the Garapan Basketball Court.

8 teams vie for UBA caging title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eight teams will be contesting the championship in the Inaugural 2009 UBA/ Miller Lite Men's Basketball League that will open shop next month at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The eight squads that will vie for the title and the $1,000 cash prize in the

See 8 TEAMS on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

GEC's Bobby Vargas, center, and Cool Water's Jerry Lopez, left, and Joseph Galulu take a breather while waiting for GEC's Alex Ocampo to complete his free throws during their game in the masters division of the PILCOWA caging on Thursday at the JP Centre Basketball Court.

Free throws lift GEC past Cool Water

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

GEC earned a living from the free throw line en route to a come-from-behind 81-75 win over Cool Water in the masters division game in the 2009 PILCOWA Basketball League on Thursday at the JP Centre Basketball Court in Garapan.

GEC fell behind by as much as 20 points in the first half, but began working its way back into

See FREE on Page 27

Matsumaru reigns supreme in Rota Blue

Japan's Masayuki Matsumarubraved the island heat en route to conquering the 16th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon last Nov. 14 on Rota.

The veteran triathlete crossed the finish line of the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run men's A division in 2:10:26.

Compatriot Yu Yumoto clocked in second after checking in at 2:13:52, while Taro Shirato made it a 1-2-3 finish for the Land of the Rising Sun coming in third with a time of 2:24:20.

Japanese triathletes also dominated the women's A division with Kaoru Suzuki (2:47:18) seizing first place, Nahoko Niwa (2:58:56) taking second, and Aya Kimura (3:06:03) placing third.

Guam's Cameron O'Neal, meanwhile, won first place in the men's B division after completing grueling 2-km swim, 90-km bike, and a 21-km run course in 4:55:44. Japan's Yuta Kobayashi

See MATSUMARU on Page 27

Japan's Masayuki Matsumaru poses in front of the finish line of the 16th Annual Rota Blue Triathlon. Inset, Saipan participants of the multi-sport event are all smiles after taking part in the competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS